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Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk December 22, 2012 **NORTH & WEST KENT EDITION** Issue no 535

Just how safe is our data from hackers?

Thousands spent on protecting confidential details – but expert warns no computer system's safe

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

PRIVATE data held on each and every one of us by the county's authorities will never be completely safe from determined computer hackers.

That's the chilling warning from IT experts after we launched a special investigation into just how much time and money is spent by councils on keeping our data safe and – perhaps most importantly – the lengths they go to in order to avoid our confidential information finding its way into the hands of criminals.

Continued on page 2

POLITICS

Ukip suspends KCC candidate

A CANDIDATE standing in a Kent County Council by-election for Ukip was this week suspended by the party.

Geoffrey Clark cause uproar with manifesto claims the NHS should consider aborting foetuses with Down's syndrome in a bid to ease the financial burden. **PAGE 5**

SPORT

Gates close at racecourse

THOUSANDS of race-goers turned out at Folkestone Racecourse on Tuesday for what could prove to be the last ever race meeting at the venue.

Talks continue in a bid to save the course, but there will be no meetings in 2013.

Full report and photos from the final day inside. **PAGE 18**

TRANSPORT

Airport plans off east coast

THE latest proposals for an airport to help ease the south east's aviation concerns have been unveiled – and this time they are for an airport on the Goodwin Sands, off the coast of Deal.

Critics have slammed the proposals which join those for the Thames Estuary. **PAGE 9**

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INSIDE

News.....2-21
Comment/Feedback 22-23
Kent Remembered 26

INSIDE

King of rap Kano heads for a gig in the garden
LET'S GO KARTING
Kent Weekend
Beast from the east
Steve McFadden takes a break from Albert Square for panto date
SEE PAGE 33

PLUS: Stunned by the beautiful setting of riverside eatery - food and drink p29 Meet the fourth-generation Clio - driving p41

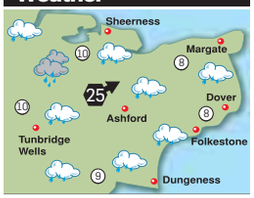
Interview 28
Food and Drink.....29

LEISURE
Attractions, events, stage, exhibitions, theatre, arts, ...31-33

Business 36-37
Training and careers....38

Property.....40
Driving 43-48
Jobs & Notices..... 49-53
Sport..... 54-55

Weather



TODAY: Cloudy with the chance of light rain. Strong winds. Max temp 11-14C (52-57F). **TONIGHT:** Cloudy with rain, heavy at times. Min temp 9-12C (48-54F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	06.59	5.6	19.45	5.5
Margate	08.01	4.1	20.42	4.1
St Mary's	00.36	4.5	13.05	4.5

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 12C	Min 6C
Tuesday	Max 10C	Min 4C
Wednesday	Max 10C	Min 5C
Thursday	Max 9C	Min 4C
Friday	Max 9C	Min 5C
Saturday	Max 9C	Min 4C

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

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Sophisticated security systems used by councils in the war against hackers

Continued from front page

As well as holding personal data, local authorities have a database containing extremely sensitive information, for example, about vulnerable children in care and in need of protection.

But the good news is our main authorities have sophisticated systems in place, costing hundreds of thousands of pounds to safeguard this information.

Senior IT lecturer at MidKent College, Rob Drew, said while most hackers are usually looking to disrupt a service rather than steal data, no system is completely safe.

He explained: "When on the internet your computer is connected to another computer, which is what makes the internet a network.

"The connection between you and the host is under a form of protection designed to keep that connection secure. However, no code is unbreakable when confronted with a determined brain."

While some town halls remained tight-lipped about their online systems and costs, others were keen to show their determination in the war on hackers.

Kent County Council said it often provides services to vulnerable people and therefore protecting and securing its online and back-office systems was a "high priority", with it spending in excess of £400,000 a year.

A spokesman said: "KCC operates a multi-layered approach to cyber-security; perimeter security includes firewalls and other measures to prevent hackers gaining access to our systems.

"In the unlikely event hackers penetrate our perimeter security, they would encounter further security measures and access controls that prevent them accessing applications and data stores."

Medway Council would not divulge its security budget, but stressed all of council's data was stored in the authority's own secure data centre, which is equipped with firewalls, anti-virus and intrusion detection, and prevention systems.

"As well as our own security codes, we also ensure we adhere to the relevant government security policies, procedures and technical controls," said a spokesman.

Last month, 20-year-old Lewys Stephen Martin was charged with hacking into Kent Police's website.

It followed a probe by the force's special branch investigations team and the Kent Police digital forensic unit. He was due to appear in court on Thursday.

The force would not say how much its security budget is, although a Freedom of Information response posted on its own website said it spent £10.5 million on its total revenue budget for ICT for 2010/11. How much of that is to protect sensitive data is unclear.

District and borough councils also responded to our requests, although some were more open about how much they set aside in their budgets for security.

Shepway District Council revealed it spends around £65,000 a year.

Policy and performance officer Rob Jackson said its biggest expenses are £20,000 for "secure internet connection, firewalls and intrusion detection" and £10,000 for a "secure link to the Government private network"

Maidstone Borough Council said data security is a fundamental component of the way in which its services are designed and delivered and that it spends around £20,000 a year on security services and systems.

An external 'penetration test' – costing £3,400 and designed to test the council's ability to withstand a hacker's attack – is also carried out annually.

"We protect against hackers with layers of security," said a spokesman.

Others stressed they complied with the Code of Connection (CoCo), a mandatory set of requirements that must be demonstrated before local authorities can connect to the Government's secure intranet [an internal internet service].

At Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, IT support manager Roger Wood said it complied with CoCo and had an in-house IT department to maintain information and data security.

Sevenoaks District Council would not reveal its security spending, but stressed it took data protection "extremely seriously".

MidKent College's Mr Drew said the internet could never be secure, but with proper protections it could be safe.

"If the internet was ever completely secure then the police and governments wouldn't be able to detect possible crime or terrorism planned using it, because they utilise the same tools and skills hackers themselves use," he said.

"But most hackers nowadays are not looking to steal data or money, but just disrupt a service."

SECURITY COST TO SOME KENT AUTHORITIES

POLITICS

Government's 'watershed moment' sees local authorities with less cash to spend

COUNCILS will have to do 'more with less' after the Government announced its local authority budgets for the next financial year.

Kent County Council will see a 1.9 per cent cut, while Medway Council will see a slash of 1.5 per cent.

A number of district and borough councils also have to face up to less cash.

While Thanet council is being hit with a budget cut of 3.7 per cent, it's better news in Ashford, where the authority will see an increase of 3.9 per cent.

In what the Government is calling a "watershed moment" for town halls, local government minister Eric Pickles said everyone had to contribute during austerity.

He pointed out that councils accounted for a quarter of public spending, and its funding had to be reviewed.

Mr Pickles said: "Councils must keep doing their bit to tackle the inherited budget deficit because they account for a quarter of all public spending and still get through more than £114 billion of taxpayers' money each year.

"Councils that put their thinking caps on now can save precious taxpayer pennies next year by cutting out waste and transforming frontline services."

He said the shake-up would create a shift in spending power where 70 per cent of council income will be raised locally compared to 56 per cent under the centrally distributed system.

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HONOURED: From left, singer Dame Vera Lynn, Olympic torchbearer Jamie Clark, and author Ian Fleming are to be modelled in steel on Dover seafront

LANDMARKS

Trio of inspirational heroes to be immortalised as seafront statues

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

HE'S the man who created the world's most famous fictional spy. She's the woman who boosted the morale of our troops during the Second World War.

Now James Bond author Ian Fleming and forces' sweetheart Dame Vera Lynn look set to be immortalised, sculpted in steel, to stand forever on Dover seafront.

And alongside the famous faces will be a third statue; of inspirational Olympic torchbearer Jamie Clark, who battled the elements to bring the iconic flame into Dover on July 18 aboard the tall ship Stavros S Niarchos.

The 21-year-old, who has Down's syndrome, spent two hours out at sea in stormy weather, suffering such bad seasickness he had to be carried off the lifeboat. But he soldiered on, holding the torch high and proud as he brought the flame to the welcoming crowds.

These three local heroes will be immortalised next year in life-size, two-dimensional steel figures to stand alongside a bench on Dover's promenade, given to the town to mark the River Dour Greenway, a new walking and cycling route stretching from Buckland Bridge to the seafront.

Dame Vera and Jamie were selected by town hall chiefs in Dover with the backing of Sustrans, the charity behind the Greenway scheme.

Jamie's mother, Sue Clark, who is chair of the Pegasus Playscheme in Dover, which is for children and young people with disabilities, said she was over the moon for her son.

"I'm still in shock – I won't believe it until I see it," she said. "To think Jamie will be part of history, that thousands of people will see his statue over the years, is amazing.

"It came out of the blue. I got a call from Lynn Brisley at Dover District Council who told me Dame Vera Lynn had been selected. I thought 'how lovely' and wondered why she was telling me. When she said Jamie was also going to be a statue, I couldn't believe it – I'm so proud.

"He is so inspirational; Pegasus Playscheme is still running because of him. I need to find £65,000 every year to keep it going and he helps me, he comes along to fundraising, he meets so many people and inspires them.

"He's shown others with disabilities that you can achieve your dreams."

James Bond author Ian Fleming was selected as the third local hero, chosen by a public vote out of a nomination shortlist which included England's first football captain Cuthbert Ottaway, who was born in Dover, Henry II and James I.

Mr Fleming lived in St Margaret's Bay and used Dover and the surrounding area as a setting in several of his books, including Moonraker and Goldfinger.

The Greenway scheme is part of a national project from Sustrans, creating new everyday walking and cycling routes across the UK. The national project received £50 million from the Big Lottery Fund, with part of that money going to Dover alongside funding from Kent County Council and Dover District Council.

Dover Harbour Board has agreed to locate the bench on its land overlooking the sea.

ROADS

Crime chief told: Keep your 20mph promise

CHAIRMAN of the county's Green Party has challenged the county's new Police and Crime Commissioner to make good her promise to back 20mph zones where there is public support.

Stuart Jeffery highlighted Maidstone as a particular case, where there was a sharp increase in the number of people killed or seriously injured on the roads between 2010 and 2011.

He called on PCC Ann Barnes, who was elected last month, to carry out her promise to back 20mph limits.

Mr Jeffery said: "Default 20mph limits are the norm in Western Europe and in the UK eight million people live in areas that are committed to them. These limits reduce accidents, pollution and congestion, and have overwhelming public support.

"The case has been made for 20mph limits. There is no reason for Kent Police to not back them."

Responding to his comments, Mrs Barnes, who holds Kent Police to account in her position as PCC, said she stood by her commitment to assist any community that wants to introduce a 20mph zone or traffic calming measures.

"I feel very strongly about this," she said. "I will be meeting with the Green Party to discuss this further.

"That said I do need proof that the whole community, and not just a section of it, is supportive of a change."

Kent Green Party has long been campaigning for 20mph limits in residential areas.

Go to www.kent-pcc.gov.uk/ to contact Ann Barnes.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Thugs attack Gurkha

A RETIRED Gurkha soldier was punched in the street and robbed of his watch as he walked to work at the Royal British Legion Village in Aylesford on Monday.

Police, who are appealing for witnesses, said the victim, 53, was attacked in East Park Road, near Preston Hall Hospital at around 4.25pm.

PC Ben Clatworthy said: "This is the last thing that should happen to someone who has served their country."

Port plan thrown out

A BID to privatise the Port of Dover has been rejected by the Government.

Transport minister Simon Burns told Dover Harbour Board, which runs the port, that such a move would prevent community involvement in the port.

It paves the way for the People's Port Trust, which wants the community to buy the asset, to step in.

Chairman Neil Wiggins welcomed the news.

M25 chaos near tunnel

FOUR people were injured - two seriously - after a multi-vehicle smash on the Essex side of the Dartford Tunnel on Wednesday.

The accident caused huge queues for rush hour traffic travelling in both directions, and forced the closure of the tunnels.

The crash involved three cars and two heavy goods vehicles. The road remained shut for most of the morning.

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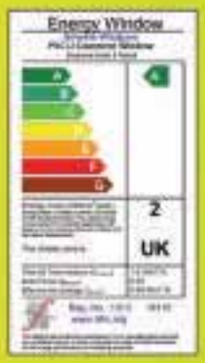

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POLITICS

By-election candidate's 'abhorrent' call for abortion of Down's foetuses

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

UKIP has suspended a candidate standing for a Kent County Council by-election seat this week, after his manifesto suggested compulsory abortion of foetuses with Down's syndrome or spina bifida.

Geoffrey Clark's name appeared on ballot papers on Thursday as electors in the Gravesham Rural seat took to the polls, but were he to win – and the results were due after this paper went to press – Ukip chiefs say he would not serve as a Ukip councillor.

In the controversial manifesto on his website, he said that while he did not endorse the abortion idea, it could help to cut national debt and should be discussed. He also said a review of the NHS should look at examining "legalising euthanasia and giving free euthanasia advice to all folk over 80" due to the strain they put on NHS finances.

Ukip has distanced itself from the comments, while Mr Clark said they were designed to spark discussion, and were not Ukip policy.

Stunned party leader Nigel Farage, who lives in Westerham, told KoS he found the comments "very disappointing".

Mr Clark's manifesto sparked fierce backlash from disability charity Mencap, which said it was "disgusted and horrified".

Chief executive Mark Goldring said: "Much has been written about the success of the Paralympics this summer changing attitudes towards disabled people for the better.

"Yet in the same year, a council candidate has proposed forced eugenics against disabled people. It is abhorrent that Geoffrey Clark sees disabled people solely as a burden, when people with a learning disability lead full lives and make valuable contributions to their communities and families. We question if he is fit for public office."

Chartered accountant Mr Clark, who also stood for the Meopham North seat on Gravesham Borough Council, has been told he will not stand for Ukip again.

The 66-year-old proposed considering "compulsory abortion when the foetus is detected as having Downs, spina bifida or similar syndrome which, if it is born, will render the child a burden on the state as well as on the family".

Sharon Bowles MEP, who represents Kent in the European Parliament, said his comments were "utterly abhorrent" and "reflect the so-called thinking of a bigoted moron".

"Such comments hark back to the era of Nazi eugenics," she said.

"The compulsory abortion of unborn babies with disabilities not only tramples on a woman's right to choose, but offends those thousands of disabled people who live happy and productive lives."

On Wednesday, Mr Clark wrote to charities apologising for offending "many people".

"I have erred. The items complained of were for the NHS review body to review, not my specific views, but expressed so badly by me as to provoke anger and hatred.

"In provoking thought – not a bad thing – I provoked hatred, a bad thing. I apologise to you and everyone for offence given."

ANGER: Geoffrey Clark

UKIP IS LEFT RED-FACED

THIS embarrassment will hurt Ukip which has spent much of 2012 building its reputation as a genuine alternative to the traditional main political parties and benefitting from disillusioned Tory voters.

In Kent – home county of its leader Nigel Farage – it had enjoyed a strong year.

In the May local elections, Ukip's Piers Wauchope beat popular Tunbridge Wells Borough Council leader Bob Atwood in his Rusthall seat and followed that up by a strong national showing in the elections for the Police and Crime Commissioner.

However, just as the party looked to have shrugged off Prime Minister David Cameron's infamous quote that they were "fruit cakes and loonies and closet racists", Geoffrey Clark's comments are likely to set it back, and take the shine off Nigel Farage's festive celebrations.

CHARITY

Glowing tributes reveal donating your winter fuel fund makes real difference to vulnerable

HEART-WARMING stories about how your money has helped vulnerable elderly people in Kent have been told by the charity behind the Surviving Winter appeal.

Last year, the Kent Community Foundation (KCF), together with over-50s provider Saga, launched the county's drive as part of a nationwide appeal to support elderly people over the winter months.

They called on those who receive the Government's £200 winter fuel allowance who don't need the money, to donate it to the most needy.

Every household with residents over the age of 60 receive the fund every winter, regardless of their financial position. By donating the money to KCF, the charity can redirect it to cash-strapped households to help towards bills.

The appeal, which raised £16,000 in Kent and Medway last year, has been launched again for 2012/13.

One of the projects to receive a grant from the fund was Two's Company, a befriending service run by Age UK Herne Bay which provides volunteers to visit the old in their homes to stop isolation.

One of its 92-year-old members lost his wife, who was also his carer, on Christmas Eve last year. He was not in contact with any other family and became vulnerable and lonely.

Two's Company provided a regular visitor every other week, giving him emotional and practical support.

Another helped through the appeal was an 86-year-old woman who struggled to heat her flat, forcing her to stay in one room in front of an electric fire. She suffered falls resulting in a broken hip. KCF gave her a £125 grant to help with heating costs.

Research by Saga, which has offices in Folkestone, Sandgate and Thanet, found that around seven million over-50s nationally are already struggling with heating bills.

Match funding of more than £20,000 has been given this year from the Government's Warm Homes Healthy People Fund for the county, which will double donations.

Chief executive of KCF Carol Lynch said the Surviving Winter Fund now stands at more than £11,000 due to the match funding.

She said: "By using the Warm Homes Healthy People Fund as a 'match', we very much hope to encourage even more generous donors in Kent and Medway to step forward."

To donate to the Surviving Winter appeal visit www.kentcf.org.uk/give/surviving-winter/2012.

Jobs and public notices ...start on page 49

NEWS IN BRIEF

OAP praised by police

A QUICK-thinking pensioner foiled a potential crook after he tried to trick his way into her house by claiming to sell plastic window frames.

The woman, in her 70s, refused to let him enter, quizzed him over who he was, and then sent him packing. Police say she did exactly the right thing and urged others to use similar tactics if a cold-caller is unable to prove their identity. The incident happened in the Broadwater Down area of Tunbridge Wells.

Pets die in shop fire

AN INVESTIGATION has been launched after a suspected arson attack on a pet shop killed a number of small animals.

Fish, mice, spiders and reptiles were all killed in the blaze at Sheppey Aquatics & Pet Supplies, which was started in the early hours of Sunday morning. The blaze is believed to have been caused by an accelerant being poured through the letterbox and ignited.

Police are appealing for any witnesses.

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ENERGY

Final turbine in place at world's largest wind farm

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

WORK on installing the first phase of the multi-billion pound London Array offshore wind farm has now been completed – with turbines now in place to generate enough power for nearly half a million homes.

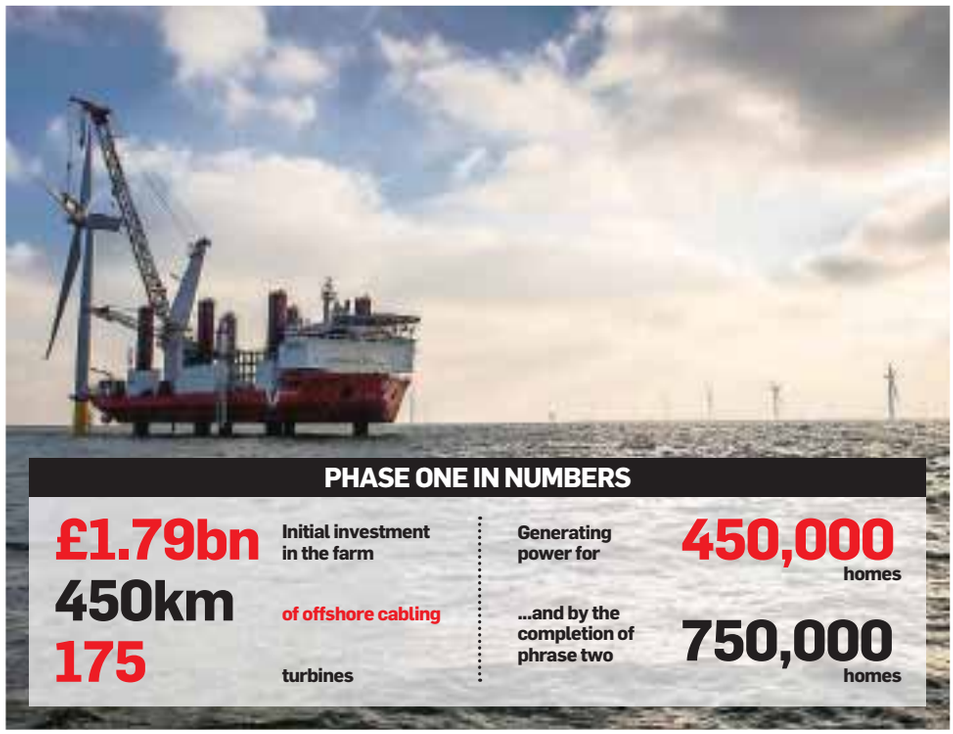
The wind farm – expected to be the world's largest when complete, covering some 90 square miles – is situated between Margate and Clacton in Essex.

Work began on laying the foundations in March 2011. With all turbines in place and 43 connected and supplying power to the National Grid, the wind farm is on track to be fully operational in spring 2013.

The wind farm has been generating energy since October 2012 when the first turbine began producing power.

Benj Sykes, head of DONG Energy's UK wind business, one of the partners in the consortium behind it, said: "Having the final turbine installed is another landmark in this flagship project for the UK.

"The London Array will soon be the largest operational offshore wind farm in the world – building offshore wind farms of this size and larger allows us to harvest the advantages of scale and is an important element of our strategy to drive down the cost of energy."



PHASE ONE IN NUMBERS

£1.79bn Initial investment in the farm

450km of offshore cabling

175 turbines

Generating power for **450,000** homes

...and by the completion of phrase two **750,000** homes

THE LONDON ARRAY

Built around 20km off the coasts of Kent and Essex, the wind farm will be installed on a 245km-square site and will be built in two phases.

Phase one covers an area of 90km-square and includes 175 turbines with a combined capacity of 630MW. If approved, the second phase will bring the total to 870MW.

The London Array is being built by a consortium formed of three partners – Denmark-based DONG Energy owns 50 per cent, E.on (30 per cent) and Abu Dhabi's Masdar (20 per cent).

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CAMPAIGN

Designers Deal out yet another airport threat

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

YET another airport plan for Kent has been unveiled, set to rival the Thames Estuary designs and this time located in the east of the county.

The latest idea, drawn up by maritime engineers Beckett Rankine, involves locating a hub airport on the Goodwin Sands off the coast of Deal.

It is one of a string of ambitious proposals for an international airport in Kent – options currently under the scrutiny of an independent commission led by economist Sir Howard Davies.

But campaigners dismissed it, saying: "Another day, another ridiculous airport proposal."

Designers say the Goodwin Airport would cost £39 billion and include four runways over the sandbank, 1.8 miles off the east coast of the county.

The plan has been welcomed by the Mayor of London's aviation advisor Daniel Moylan – who supports a Thames Estuary airport – and industry experts.

Director of Beckett Rankine, Tim Beckett, called the Goodwin plan "the most sustainable solution available".

NEW DEAL: The latest airport proposal involves building four runways on the Goodwin Sands

"If the Davies Commission endorses the long-term requirement for a new, four-runway hub airport for London, then locating it at Goodwin will have the least adverse social and environmental impact of any option," he said.

Beckett Rankine claim their airport would:

- allow four runways 1.5km apart enabling independent runway operation to maximise capacity.
- offer excellent transport links with a 40-minute high speed rail connection as well as good road access.
- allow take off and landing over water, enabling 24-hour operations.
- not impact on any protected environment or interfere with shipping lanes.
- not require the demolition of homes or removal of residents.

Mr Beckett said: "Since the 1970s there have been several proposals for an airport in the Thames Estuary. All the sites have significant disadvantages.

"Each proposal is located in at least one internationally designated, environmentally sensitive area. All either interfere with shipping lanes or are too small to provide four runways sufficiently spaced for independent operation.

"The land-connected sites do not provide take off and landing over water which ought to be the principal benefit of a new offshore airport since it enables 24-hour operations, maximising utilisation of the airport.

"Goodwin Airport has none of these disadvantages."

But campaigners have slammed this latest plan.

CPRE Protect Kent spokesman Jamie Weir said: "Many South East airports such as Manston have plenty of runway capacity, so why are new airport proposals being pitched on a daily basis?

"The question of whether we need fresh capacity needs to be answered before we look for sites. This proposal, like all of those in the Thames Estuary, fails to even recognise this.

"We believe the Government must prove the need for additional capacity before anything like this is contemplated."

But Daniel Moylan said Boris Johnson had been encouraging proposals for a new airport and welcomed this contribution.

Editor of the New Civil Engineer, Antony Oliver, also gave his backing.

"Beckett Rankine has brought an intelligent engineering solution to the challenge of providing for the future expansion of London's runway capacity," he said. "Goodwin Airport needs to be considered."

There are six "active" proposals for the north Kent area: Foster and Partner's Isle of Grain plan, Gensler's London Britannia airport off the Hoo Peninsula, London Jubilee airport off Whitstable, London Medway Airport at Cliffe, Marinair off Sheppey and London Gateway Airport at Cliffe.

NO Estuary Airport

What are your views on the proposals? Share your opinion by writing to Airport Campaign, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SS, or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk and put 'airport' in the subject line. Sign the petition at www.stopestuaryairport.co.uk

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CHARITY

Call to show some festive cheer as figures reveal 500,000 OAPs will spend Christmas Day alone

By Chrissie Daniels
chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

CHARITIES are urging people to reach out to the elderly this Christmas after it was revealed thousands of over-65s will spend the festive season alone.

Charity Friends of the Elderly has found more than 500,000 elderly people will spend Christmas Day alone with just their TV for company.

It is thought the death of partners, family living too far away and poor health could all lead to older people feeling isolated during the holiday season.

The study revealed just how much of a problem isolation is for the elderly, with 370,000 over-75s spending a typical day alone.

It found 60 people a week die alone and that loneliness has been found to increase the risk of Alzheimer's disease by 50 per cent.

Now, the charity is urging friends and neighbours to spread some Christmas cheer to the old in their community.

It has launched the campaign Friends Open Doors to encourage people to make a Christmas gesture to older people.

Richard Furze, chief executive, said: "The effects of isolation on older people – including loneliness, depression, feelings of low self-worth, poor health and diet – can be devastating, with isolated individuals being less likely to obtain the services they need or seek help.

"We understand that people are incredibly busy today, and especially at Christmas, but we urge them to get more involved with the older people around them – and not just at Christmas.

"Small things such as simply checking in on an older neighbour regularly, popping a card through their door or having a chat with an older person at the shops is enjoyable for both young and older people; it only takes a moment and can make a real difference."

Chief executive at the Ashford branch of Age UK, Jennie Double, agreed and said older people can be proud and often won't ask for help as they don't want to be seen as a nuisance.

She said: "Nobody likes being alone at Christmas. People want company and a nice warm environment."

She said loneliness has almost been accepted as part of an elderly person's life and would like to see people reach out to their loved ones.

She added: "Even if it's something as small as a phone call. Just remember they may not have seen or heard from anyone for a long time."

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR ARE ALONE THIS CHRISTMAS

FRIENDS of the Elderly offer 'Phoning Friends' a telephone befriending service for people over 60-years-old.

It helps prevent feelings of loneliness and isolation by providing a regular phone call from a friendly volunteer

Call 020 7881 1148 or email info@phoningfriends.fote.org.uk for more information.

Age UK offer Christmas lunches for the elderly, call 0800 169 6565 to find out if one is taking place near you.

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- Grilled polenta with grilled mediterranean vegetables & goat's cheese (V)

:: Main Courses ::
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- Vegetable cannelloni topped with cheese served with creamy sauce (V)

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POLITICS

Rejection of Government's planned 'snooper's charter' welcomed by anti-ID group

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A CAMPAIGN group has welcomed a cross-party committee's vehment opposition to Government plans to push through what has been dubbed the 'snooper's charter'.

The draft Communications Data Bill was proposed to allow the authorities to be able to monitor all emails and web activity, as well as mobile phone records, of the entire nation.

Details would be stored for 12 months, but not the content of the messages. The idea was to ensure the police and other agencies had more effective methods of clamping down on criminal behaviour.

But it was slammed by the cross-party committee who ordered a complete redraft of the document. The bill was accused of using statistics to justify its introduction as "fanciful and misleading".

Their report was welcomed by the east Kent branch of the group NO2ID.

Originally set up to campaign against the introduction of ID cards, it now campaigns about authorities' monitoring proceedures.

Organiser Ian Taylor, from Dover, said: "With the internet and mobile phones so much a part of everyone's daily lives, what's being proposed is nothing less than permanent, minute-by-minute, blanket surveillance of the entire country.

"Ministers say they would only snoop on who you're talking to, not what you're saying, as though this somehow makes their Orwellian scheme less bad, but that distinction doesn't exist on the internet, where addresses and content are mixed together."

He said there were proposals to install 'black box' recorders across the internet to monitor and store data use.

Mr Taylor added: "In practice, the Home Office's 'black boxes' would have to scoop up everything you put on the internet if they want to find out who you're tweeting, emailing and messaging on Facebook.

"We all want the police to be able to detect crime, but just as they need a warrant from a magistrate to search a suspect's house, so they should have to get a judicial warrant to investigate suspicious internet use.

"This Communications Data Bill is one of the most dangerous long-term threats to a free society ever proposed by a democratic government. Parliament must reject it in its entirety."

The group now wants Parliament to reject the idea of the bill, something Labour did while in power three years ago after it was realised what a minefield it could become.

Deputy Prime Minster Nick Clegg said: "The committee's report makes a number of serious criticisms – not least on scope, proportionality, cost, checks and balances; and the need for much wider consultation.

"It is for those reasons I believe the Government needs to have a fundamental rethink about this legislation."

FAB FOUR: Quartet from hit TV show will be appearing at the Woodville Halls

ENTERTAINMENT

Inbetweeners' cast ready to answer your questions

THE cast of cult TV show The Inbetweeners are to make a special appearance in Kent next month for a question-and-answer session and to introduce a screening of their movie.

James Buckley, Blake Harrison, Joe Thomas and Simon Bird are all scheduled to appear at the Woodville Halls in Gravesend on January 25.

Also appearing alongside the cast is one of the show's writers Damon Beesley.

Tickets for The Inbetweeners showing will cost £10.

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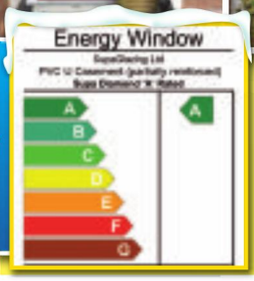

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LITERATURE

Teenager's poetic licence scoops him runners-up spot in UK competition

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

AUTHOR of the award-winning book The Gruffalo, Children's Laureate Julia Donaldson, has named a teenager from Tonbridge runner-up in a nationwide poetry competition.

Oliver Knight, 14, emerged as one of the very best of 1,850 entries submitted in the RSPB's 2012 Wildverse poetry competition. He was one of four runners-up in the eight years and over category, with his poem Evolution (see right).

Mrs Donaldson (pictured) said of Oliver's entry; "This was original, succinct and witty, encapsulating the whole of evolution from single cell to planet-threatening human being.

"Mostly the rhyme scheme was extremely well-handled, with short pithy lines."

Vanessa Knight, Oliver's mother, added: "We're very proud. It is a real achievement for him. I am certain this will inspire him to continue writing poetry about his favourite topic; nature."

The competition invited children and young people aged up to 19 to get creative and submit their original poems based on any aspect of nature and wildlife.

EVOLUTION

By Oliver Knight, age 14

Start as a cell
Grow in size,
Turn into mollusc
Evolve some eyes.
Turn into prey
Evolve protection,
Turn to predator
Evolve by selection.
Turn into lizard
To live on land,
Grow some more
Evolve a hand.
Retreat to the trees
It's safe up there,
Retreat back down
Here comes a bear.
Start to walk upright
Lose the tail,
Move more quickly
Unlike the snail.
Grow some feet
Start to lose hair,
Keep it on the head
And kill the bear.
Learn to tame fire
And how to cook
Start to boss
Others around,
Go to war,
And find the world's round.
Learn you're in charge
And you own nature,
Lock up in cages
Your distant relatives.

CELEBRITY

Pippa hits the shops

HUNDREDS of people turned out to see Pippa Middleton during her recent visit to shopping complex Bluewater.

The sister of Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge, made an appearance at the WHSmith and Waterstones stores to sign copies of her book Celebrate: A Year of British Festivities for Families and Friends.

It is reported she received a £400,000 advance from publishers Penguin for the book, which has been widely panned by the critics.

In response, Ms Middleton, 29, who used to date former Kent cricketer Alex Loudon, said recently: "I have taken the criticism on the chin.

"But in my defence, Celebrate is meant to be a guide to party planning and, as such, it has to cover the basics.

"If I were to write a cookery book, for instance, I would be compelled to say that, to make an omelette, you have to break at least one egg."

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DEATH

Tribute after man dies at Saga staff's festive party

THE family of a man killed outside the venue of a Christmas party for one of the county's biggest employers have paid tribute to him.

David Ivin, 36, died following an incident outside the Leas Cliff Hall in Folkestone onThursday, December 13.

The venue was the host to the annual party for staff at nearby Saga.

Police are still trying to piece together his final evening.

What is known is that he was taken to the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford, where he was pronounced dead.

Officers had originally been called to reports of an assault outside the venue at around 9.50pm where it was reported a man was restrained by door staff.

A family tribute said: "He was a well known employee of Saga and a larger than life character. He was much loved and will be very much missed by all his family."

Three men who were arrested following the incident, were all released, without charge, last weekend.

The investigation into the circumstances leading up to Mr Ivin's death continues.

A spokesman for the Leas Cliff Hall said: "We are deeply saddened by this tragedy."

MUSIC

Time almost up for choirs to enter competition

GROUPS keen to take part in a competition to find the top choir in the county are being warned time is running out for them to enter.

The Top Choir Kent 2013 competition, organised by the Rotary Club of Canterbury, is open to all groups from across Kent and Medway.

Not only will they walk off with a trophy as the top choir, but also book themselves a date at next year's Canterbury Festival.

Competition director, John Harris, said: "The initial entries will be whittled down to a shortlist of eight choirs and it will be these that take to the stage in the grand finale of the competition on Saturday, March 23, at the Shirley Hall in Canterbury.

"In addition to the top prize, each of the eight finalists will receive a cash prize to assist with their running expenses."

Top Choir Kent is open to amateur choirs of all ages and styles. All entries must be received by January 31, 2013.

For further details see www.topchoirkent.org.

SONG: Kent Top Choir 2013 take place in March

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LAST RACE: Clockwise from top: Lord Howard; Quartz Du Montceau under Marc Goldstein wins the final race; punters have a drink; checking form; racegoers make a statement about the closure; the track

SPORT

Thousands turn out for a last flutter at the races

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

THE last remaining staff at Folkestone Racecourse cleared their desks on Friday and left the building after the curtain came down on racing at the circuit – at least for now.

Arena Racing Company, whose chairman is former Folkestone MP Lord Howard, closed the Westenhanger track after its final meeting of the year on Tuesday.

It had announced the track was to close, temporarily, early this summer after efforts to build houses on the site to allow it to generate funds to upgrade facilities were turned down by the local council.

The company says the work was essential to turn the course into a viable operation.

Talks between the two sides are set to continue into the new year, but for the nine full-time staff at the course, their careers are now taking them in a different direction.

Course manager Emma Santer has been at the track for ten years.

She explained: "Obviously, we're all very sad to be leaving and we spent the end of the week tidying up and clearing out the office. But hopefully we'll see racing here again soon.

"There will be no racing here in 2013, but after that everyone is optimistic it will return. Talks are continuing so we're keeping our fingers crossed."

All staff were made redundant with the exception of a small team who will be tasked with course maintainance.

Just under 2,500 race fans attended Tuesday's final meeting – a higher audience than would normally be attracted for a winter meeting – as tears mingled with the regular race-day cheers.

Explained Ms Santer: "We tried to make the meeting as jolly as possible and make it an enjoyable day for everyone.

"There were lots of people who had been coming here for years. I spoke to one punter in his 70s who had been coming since he was five. It has played a big part in people's lives.

"People just wanted to come down and say goodbye. But we all hope it will be back."

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

COURSE owners Arena Racing announced in July it was to temporarily close Folkestone and close forever the Hereford circuit.

All fixtures for Folkestone in 2013 have been distributed to the firms' other courses, so there will be no racing until at least 2014, even if a return deal is agreed.

The stumbling block has been Shepway District Council turning down plans for 800 homes on the site – a move by the owners to generate funds to improve the circuit and make it viable.

But the council says the homes were not part of its strategic plans and would be inappropriate for the area. However, Arena has put in a counter argument and it is hoped a deal could be agreed.

A spokesman for Arena Racing said: "Disappointingly, Shepway District Council withdrew their support for the racecourse proposals. This left the racecourse with no certainty regarding any future development plans.

"The board has received general support from Kent County Council, and has held discussions with Shepway District Council who would also like to see the racecourse re-open and enhance its facilities."

Shepway council says talks continue with Arena with a view to securing racing at the circuit again. It is hoped the new year may bring a breakthrough.

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HEALTH CARE

Hospital polls poorly for A&E department after latest survey conducted by health watchdog

By Dean Kilpatrick
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

HEALTH chiefs have vowed to improve their services after a poll of patients using the accident and emergency department at one of the county's major hospitals, failed to make the grade.

According to a national survey, commissioned by health watchdog the Care Quality Commission, those who used A&E at Medway Martime-Hospital rated it lower than the national average.

It fell short in some key areas, among them cleanliness, safety and privacy.

Some 249 people responded to the survey.

The Medway NHS Foundation Trust said: "The trust's emergency department sees and treats more than 250 patients every day – the majority of who are satisfied with the care and treatment they receive.

"The recent CQC emergency department patient survey shows the trust has improved in 17 of the questions compared to the last time the survey was done. However, we know there's more to do to meet our objective in giving every patient an excellent experience every time."

Medway NHS Foundation Trust also said it had seen positive responses to moves to improve patient satisfaction including improving signage, displaying live information about waiting times and improving security for clinical areas.

Elsewhere in the county, survey results highlighted concerns with ambulance provisions at Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust hospitals, with patients suggesting communication between hospital and ambulance staff is poor.

In response, the trust said: "Overall, we are seeing 13 per cent more people coming to A&E than last year. Rapid assessment is in use in A&E and, on average, patients coming in by ambulance are seen, triaged and prioritised within 15 minutes of arrival.

"The CQC report is positive and we will be looking closely at what needs to be done to improve the service in this particular area."

Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells Trust scored poorly on the information it provides about making complaints, with patients saying there were not enough posters or leaflets on display.

A Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells Trust spokesman said: "While our patients commonly feel they are given enough information about their condition or treatment, we need to and will do more to make sure this is given in an understandable way to everyone we see."

But the Royal College of Nurses (RCN) warned that hospital provisions may falter further if budget cuts hit the National Health Service.

RCN chief executive, Dr Peter Carter, said: "Cutting resources further will only have a detrimental effect on the quality and accessibility of care."

BLUE BADGE PARKING ROW

A DISABLED woman has started legal action against the Medway NHS Foundation Trust over its decision to implement parking fees for disabled drivers.

Charges for blue badge holders were introduced in July, but Sue Groves, from Chatham, said the introduction of the fees was adding additional barriers for disabled people.

However, the health trust deny the charge, and has said the decision was "not taken lightly", but was the fairest option available.

A trust spokesman said: "Its purpose is to create fairness around concessions, which are now based on affordability, rather than purely on entitlement to blue badges."

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MENTAL HEALTH

Alarming rise in young self-harmers prompts former victim to speak out

By Chrissie Daniels
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A WOMAN who was bullied as a schoolgirl, prompting her to spiral into a world of depression and self-harming, has spoken out in a bid to prevent children following her path into despair.

Laura Sherlock, 36, from Dartford, says she was bullied when she started secondary school, and that despite her happy home life, it proved the catalyst for depression, a diagnosis of schizophrenia and harming herself.

She spoke out after it was revealed there has been a huge rise in the number of children calling the NSPCC's confidential ChildLine phone number asking for help on self-harming. The charity says figures have rocketed by some 68 per cent for 2011-12.

It also found a 92 per cent rise in the number of girls contacting the service about the issue. Disturbingly, the age of children for whom it is becoming a major issue has dropped from 15 to 14.

Experts believe the increasing pressure put on children at school and troubled home lives could be behind the rise.

IN PAIN: There has been a 68 per cent rise in calls for help on self-harming

Ms Sherlock said: "I was emotionally bullied. It made me hate myself and think I was worthless. I could not talk to anybody about it and bottled it up inside.

"I think the number of calls to ChildLine is increasing because of the stress and pressures young people are being put under.

"There is a lot of pressure at school with exams, and I think children are being forced to grow up much quicker than they used to."

However, she said the rise could be positive as it could indicate children are more aware of the help available. In addition, there is now less stigma around mental health.

After years of help from medication and psychiatrists, Ms Sherlock has turned her life around and now works at a medical school, using her experience to teach students about examining patients with mental illness. She is also an involvement worker for Rethink, a mental illness charity.

Lucie Russell, director of campaigns, policy and participation at YoungMinds, a national charity dedicated to improving the emotional and mental well being of young people, agrees that life pressures could be causing children to turn to self harm.

She said: "These shocking statistics from ChildLine should act as a wake-up call to everyone who cares about the welfare of young people. More children and young people are using self-harm as a mechanism to cope with the pressures of life and this just isn't acceptable.

"Young people are growing up in a harsh environment with ever increasing stress to perform at school, next to zero job prospects and the constant pressure to keep up with the latest consumer trends.

"Social networking, although creating circles of 'friends', often leaves people feeling more alone."

FACT FILE

What is self-harming?

A young person may self-harm to help them cope with negative feelings, to feel more in control or to punish themselves. It can be a way of relieving overwhelming feelings that build up inside, when they feel isolated, angry, guilty or desperate.

Cutting the arms or the back of the legs with a razor or knife is the most common form of self-harm, but it can take many forms, including burning, biting, hitting or taking overdoses.

Where can I get help?

Although self-harm is rarely a failed suicide attempt, it is a sign that the person is coping with very difficult feelings, and probably needs some help. Self-injury can also lead to infection, permanent damage and even accidental death. It is therefore important to seek professional advice if your child is self-harming.

Start by going to see your GP. You can see the GP yourself if your child does not want to go. You can also look for counselling for your child. You do not need to see the GP first for many youth counselling services.

If you are worried your child is putting their life at risk by self-harming, call 999 or take them to A&E if possible.

YoungMinds' parent helpline is 0808 802 5544 or you can email parents@youngminds.org.uk for further advice.

(Advice from: YoungMinds/www.youngminds.org.uk)

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I DO: Same-sex couples will be allowed to marry under the bill

EQUAL RIGHTS

Abusive 'intolerance' over gay

By Dean Kilpatrick
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

MP GORDON Henderson has been forced to close his account on social networking website Twitter after a backlash at his opposition to gay marriage.

The Conservative politician for Sittingbourne and Sheppey was one of nearly 60 MPs to sign a letter published in the Daily Telegraph this week which spoke out against the Government's plans to allow same-sex marriages. But his Twitter account came under seige from those in support of the proposals and the MP decided to quit cyberspace.

He claimed the decision was due to being "unable to have a meaningful debate" due to the space restrictions on Twitter.

The hugely popular site limits responses to just 140 characters.

However, it only fanned the flames, with critics continuing to round on him 24-hours after he announced he was quitting the site on Monday.

Mr Henderson said: "Some of the comments that were posted on Twitter highlight why I am taking my stand.

"They show a level of intolerance towards anyone who does not support their opinion, that hints at the very prejudice that those tweeters claim is being perpetuated on the gay community.

"A couple of tweets inferred

WHAT SOME OF OUR MPS SAY ON THE CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECT

Against: Gordon Henderson

Many millions of people believe marriage is the joining together of a man and a woman in holy matrimony, with the ultimate objective, where physically possible, of procreating.

That belief is shared by many religions, including mainstream Christians, Muslims and Jews. Redefining marriage to include same-sex marriages denies them the right to that belief.

Against: Rehman Chishti

I do not support any redefinition of marriage, which is based on my own principles and is in accordance with all faiths. People in same-sex relationships can enter into a civil partnership with the same rights. I fully support that.

I have received correspondence from many constituents of all different faiths including from the Christian, Muslim, Sikh and Hindu communities. They have raised concerns and I have asked the Government to take these views on board. The issue is not a priority when the Government is tackling the deficit and reforming public services.

For: Helen Grant

I am proud to be in a Government which will finally enable same-sex couples to get married – it's neither fair nor right to stop people wishing to marry simply because of their sexuality.

Marriage is an amazing institution, the bedrock of a happy and stable society and it should be open to all.

But I also understand the concerns that some religious bodies have raised. I believe we have struck the right balance between doing the right thing by same-sex couples and protecting the interests of those with religious concerns.

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marriage opposition prompts MP to quit Twitter

that I would prove myself homophobic unless I support same-sex marriages. Of course, such accusations are designed to stifle debate – which is why I ignore them."

Despite his defence, a number of Twitter users have slammed the Conservative MP over his stance, with one user calling his views "disgusting".

The news comes after the backbencher raised his concerns about the proposals announced by culture secretary Maria Miller last week.

Legislation will be brought to the House of Commons next year, although same-sex marriages will not be conducted in Church of England buildings.

However, some 58 MPs signed a letter to the Daily Telegraph this week, telling the government it had no mandate to change the definition of marriage.

The letter, which was signed by Mr Henderson, Gillinghan and Rainham's Rehman Chishti, North Thanet's Sir Roger Gale and Canterbury's Julian Brazier, said: "We are sceptical that the proposed protections will prevent the erosion of liberties of religion and conscience.

"The proposed redefinition of marriage is unnecessary, given the legal rights established through civil partnerships.

"We understand some parliamentarians support freedom for same-sex couples to marry, but we support a freedom from the state being able to redefine the meaning of marriage."

Sir Roger Gale claimed in the House of Commons last week that 98 per cent of his constituents were against equal marriage, whilst Mr Chishti told KoS Media he could not back the proposals due to his religious beliefs.

Campaigners for a change in the law, Stonewall, dismissed the MPs' concerns.

Chief executive Ben Summerskill said: "While we fully respect the point of view of those who oppose the government's plans, our advice to them remains that if you don't approve of same-sex marriage, then just make sure you don't get married to someone of the same sex."

THE CULTURE SECRETARY'S PROPOSALS

EQUALITY: Maria Miller's same-sex proposals are expected to be approved by Parliament

CULTURE secretary Maria Miller unveiled the same-sex marriage proposals earlier this month.

The aim is to make marriage equal for everyone. Although the existing civil partnerships give almost identical legal rights to married couples, campaigners want a completely level playing field.

So the Coalition proposals would see same-sex marriages with religious organisations free to conduct the services if they want to.

The problem, however, is that for many marriage is a sacred union between a man and woman and the definitions of marriage should not be altered.

It is a debate which is not likely to die down.

A bill is expected at the end of January, and if all goes to plan, Prime Minister David Cameron hopes Parliament will have given its blessing by the summer.

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OPINION

Faith, but with understanding

The Bishop of Dover, **Rt Rev Trevor Willmott**, highlights the good the Christian church plays in our society, whatever your beliefs may be...

AMIDST all the headlines of joy and of sorrow in 2012 – the Queen's Jubilee, Olympic Games, continuing tragedy in Syria – it's remarkable how many have referred either implicitly or explicitly to faith.

In March, Bolton Wanderers footballer Fabrice Muamba collapsed on the pitch with a cardiac arrest. As his life swung in the balance, people from across the world prayed for his recovery. While some disregard the power of prayer, Muamba described his survival after his heart stopped for 78 minutes, as "more than a miracle".

Earlier in the year, the world's most famous atheist, Professor Richard Dawkins, caused much debate after he told the Archbishop of Canterbury in a live debate that he was only '6.9 out of 7' sure that there is no God.

In November, there was a national outcry as the General Synod rejected the legislation to consecrate women as bishops. A debate about the role of the Church of England as the state church has raged since.

The results of the Census have also caused debate. The circa 10 per cent fall in those claiming Christian affiliation indicates a changing pattern of religious life in which traditional or inherited identities are less taken for granted than they used to be.

England remains a country where the majority of the nation actively recognises the role faith plays in their life, and here in Kent 64 per cent of people identify themselves as Christian.

But the work of the Church of England is not limited to those who declare Christian affiliation. As a church, we are committed to serve people of all faiths and none, in parishes, schools, community projects and through the voluntary work and financial donations that churchgoers contribute outside their local church to the local community.

In Kent, this service to the community includes involvement in food banks, which provide emergency food for individuals and families.

In Canterbury and Folkestone, night shelters for homeless people are offered to the vulnerable regardless of faith, due in a large part to the involvement of local Christians.

Children of all faiths and none are served through the 103 Church of England schools in the diocese.

On a smaller scale, but equally vital, are the countless projects run by or supported by local churches. Soup kitchens, youth groups, befriending services for the elderly, hospital transport and street pastors, are just a few examples.

Christians offer these acts of service to the community, not because they seek to prove anything, but because they believe every individual is precious in the eyes of God and everyone deserves His love in action.

Christians offer these acts of service because they think everyone is precious in the eyes of God

At Christmas, God gives us the greatest gift of all in the form of Jesus Christ.

God comes to us weak and vulnerable in the form of an infant child. He does not force Himself upon us, but longs for us to recognise Him. Day after day God silently lays before us, longing for us to know Him better and join Him as we journey through the world.

The headlines this year, do, I believe, show there is much spiritual hunger. This is further evidenced by the sheer numbers of people worshipping at church over Christmas – around 51,000 in east Kent alone.

But, unlike headlines, the Christmas message remains forever. God loves us so much he gave us the greatest gift of all, his only son. May the peace and love of the Christ Child be with you all this Christmas.

KOS COMMENT

How vulnerable are we in this digital decade?

ONE thing most people take for granted is that our online personal information is kept safe.

The only time it's ever really thought of is when a case of hacking hits the headlines, but things soon settle down and we go back to living in hope it doesn't happen again.

But how vulnerable are we are in this digital age, where some of our most private details are stored on endless databases.?

Ever-advancing technology has given us the world at our fingertips.

But like with everything, it comes with risks. Let's hope we're not naïve in putting such trust in something so intangible.

Merry Christmas to all

CHRISTMAS is well and truly upon us with the smell of mince pies in the air and the sound of festive music heard around every corner.

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Please get the facts right, sir

I AM sorry, AP Goldie from Ashford, but you are wrong (KOS, letters, 09/12).

The flight path into Manston Airport is only partly over the sea. Planes taking off and landing at Manston fly directly over Ramsgate and several villages.

I understand that wildlife and the environment are important, but so are the residents of Ramsgate and the villagers whose quality of life would be ruined with any expansion of Manston.

John Davison, Ramsgate

Off the track with rail link

I WAS amused to see the latest attempt to breathe life into the moribund Manston Airport by encouraging the Government to waste millions of pounds providing a new station and improvements to the Ashford-Ramsgate rail line.

Perhaps one of the supporters could explain where all these extra passengers are expected to come from? The high-speed service only serves six stations.

From Ashford and Canterbury West the time savings would be negligible. From Ebbsfleet, potential passengers can get to London City airport via Woolwich Arsenal and the DLR more quickly and much more cheaply.

From Stratford you can travel faster, and again more cheaply, to Stansted, London City and Southend airports.

From St Pancras and the rest of northern London there is the choice of many airports much nearer and easily accessible at, yet again, far cheaper fares.

Rather than waste money on a project of which the returns would likely be negative, if there is any money available it should be spent on improving the snail pace rail services along the main line from east Kent via Chatham to Cannon Street and Victoria, on which tens of thousands of people commute in misery every day.

Peter Lee, Herne Bay

Margate's my chart-topper

AS A visitor to Margate in the halcyon days of my childhood in the 1930s, and then as a resident from 1945 onwards, I have seen Margate in all its glory and its dark dismal days, but my love for the town has never died.

So I cannot express how delighted I am that it has earned a place in the esteemed Rough Guide.

A few years ago I wrote words to the tune of I Left My Heart In San Francisco. They said:

"I left my heart in dear old Margate, the seaside's always calling me,

"Beneath a myriad of stars, and sunsets right to Mars,

"A tang of seaweed in the air – I don't care, my heart is there in dear old Margate,

"I love that bright diamante sea,

"When I come home to you lovely Margate, your golden sun will shine on me."

Give us a chance to not only attract new tourists to Margate, but to the rest of east Kent too.

Betty Renz, (sunny) Margate

It's time to end this sad abuse

IT IS, thankfully, some years since this barbaric and degrading trade of shipping live ainmals through Dover and Sheerness docks was stopped by the gallant protesting people of both towns and beyond.

To learn only recently this appalling trade is still being plied in Kent at Ramsgate is unbelievable, and that it is condoned by county councillors who we voted for.

Horses, sheep, cows and the week-old calves having to endure the most horrendous conditions; long journeys crammed into lorries for hundreds of miles without rest, food or water, in all weathers, only to be repeated once on the Continent.

The calves are crated up for the rest of their short lives for veal.

One must ask where are our MPs, county councillors, church leaders and our compassionate farmers?

It all beggars belief.

In the 1960s I worked in the docks and witnessed it all.

A length of timber shattered on a cow's hip bone, a dock manager applying an electric prodder to a cow's damp private parts.

Another time, another day, I was on my way home walking back through the docks.

It was getting dark and a lorry arrived with around a dozen cows on board.

The lorry parked, dropped its ramp and no sooner were the cows in the pen, the lorry was off and away. No bedding, food or water for the animals.

On passing the pen it was quite apparent one of the poor cows had a fractured front leg.

A vet was urgently required to put this poor animal down and out of its misery.

I phoned the police and they quickly arrived with a vet.

The two police officers were so shocked by the appalling state of the poor animals and the callousness of the driver, they went after him and he was apprehended on the motorway.

All this was 50 years ago and it is still going on.

It must be stopped by whatever means it takes.

George Bowes, Sheppey

Festive cheer to our animals

IN THIS season of goodwill to all, it's sometimes easy to forget to show compassion to all animals as well, so why not celebrate this festive season with a cruelty-free Christmas?

Animal Aid has produced a free glossy booklet called Compassionate Christmas that shows you just how easy it is to celebrate the festive season without harming animals.

It covers fashion, cosmetics, guilt-free gifts, donating to charity, holiday entertainment and the all-important Christmas meal.

Compassionate Christmas proves you won't miss out on festive fun by excluding animal products from your diet and shopping list. It is available free of charge by calling 01732 364546 or emailing info@animalaid.org.uk.

Ben Martin, Tonbridge

A perfect lorry park... and ride

IT'S such a shame Folkestone Racecourse has been closed due to the owners sulking after not getting their own way with Shepway District Council.

The now defunct racecourse could be put to better use as a lorry park when there are traffic problems on the M20.

I've no no doubt there would be ample parking, toilets and washing facilities on site the general public would have used on race days.

TL Cox, Canterbury

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KENT REMEMBERED

RESTING PLACE: Harden's daughter Julie Wells lays a wreath at the grave of her father back in 1955

Comic-book hero who won the Victoria Cross

By Dean Kilpatrick
dean.kilpatrick@archant.co.uk

"I DO NOT remember ever reading anything more heroic."

That was how the only medic in the British Army to be awarded the Victoria Cross for battlefield bravery was described by secretary of war Sir John Grigg to a hushed House of Commons in 1945.

Today, nearly 70 years later, the actions of Henry 'Eric' Harden are remembered in a new book.

Born and raised in Northfleet, his remarkable life is told through letters sent from the battlefield to his wife, until his tragic death, attempting a daring rescue on Dutch soil, aged just 32.

Written by Stephen Snelling, who has produced previous books on both world wars and the history of the Victoria Cross, it details Harden's early life of learning to swim in the Thames, and holidays spent in Dymchurch and Minster on Sheppey.

However, when war was declared in 1939, everything changed. A member of the St John Ambulance Brigade prior to hostilities breaking out, his experience would see him deployed to the battlefields abroad.

But on a fateful day in January 1945, Lance-Corporal Harden disobeyed orders to attempt a rescue of three marines who fell wounded in a snow-covered field raked by enemy fire near Brachterbeek in Holland.

L Cpl Harden arrived back safely with the first man, but the second casualty was killed as he and a stretcher party desperately tried to rescue him. Harden was then shot through the head and killed instantly attempting to bring in the third man.

He was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for his brave deeds.

His daughter, who was just an infant at the time, knew very little of her father, but later discovered a batch of letters – published in the book – which brought his memory to life.

Julie Wells said: "My relationship with him has always been ethereal.

"Without the letters I would have known absolutely nothing about the kind of man he was. They made him seem real to me. Suddenly, he was flesh and blood.

"Instead of being a hero who didn't seem to belong to me, he was my Dad."

Mrs Wells added: "The people around the village of Brachterbeek where Dad was killed have never stopped celebrating him and what he did.

"Only recently they got in touch to say they have bought the little piece of ground where he died and plan to put a permanent memorial there.

"Naturally I'm enormously proud of Dad, but the fact he continues to be commemorated like this, and in Northfleet where he lived, makes me prouder still."

Stephen Snelling spent almost 20 years researching Mr Harden's life, and said he was inspired to research and write the book after his story was featured in a comic book during Snelling's childhood.

Mr Snelling said: "As a boy, I'd read of his exploits in comic-strip form and the image of him battling against the odds has stayed with me.

"In time, it led me to embark on my own odyssey in search of the man behind the legend."

A REAL-LIFE HERO: Harden's wartime exploits were captured in the boys' comic The Victor

■ **Commando Medic: Doc Harden VC, by Stephen Snelling, is published by Spellmount, an imprint of The History Press, priced £14.99.**

King of rap Kano heads for a gig in the garden

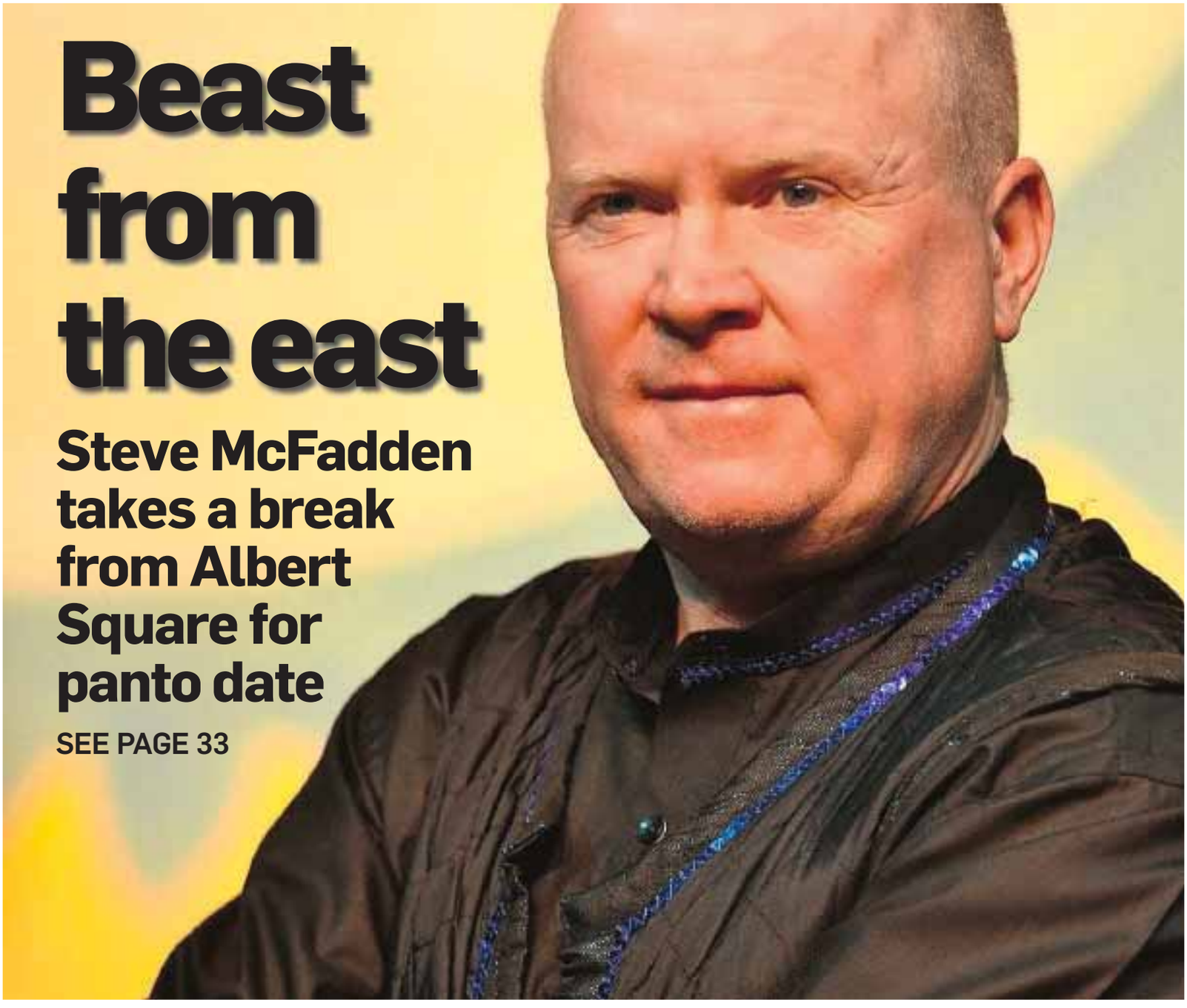
SEE PAGE 31

LET'S GO KARTING

Drive away the winter chill with day on the track

SEE PAGE 32

Kent Weekend



Beast from the east

Steve McFadden takes a break from Albert Square for panto date

SEE PAGE 33

PLUS: Stunned by the beautiful setting of riverside eatery - **food and drink p29** Meet the fourth-generation Clio - **driving p43**

KENT HISTORY

Dover Castle

Light at end of the Cold War tunnel

Nick Ames goes underground to see where a mini government would have sat had the bomb hit

AS the 'frontline county', Kent has been at the forefront of conflicts dating back to the Roman invasion of Britain. Throughout the medieval and Tudor eras, into Napoleonic times and through two world wars and beyond, Kent has had a vital role to play in the defence of these shores.

Today the prospect of a nuclear strike is almost unthinkable – but just a few decades ago it was a very real prospect and the county was a key part of the plans should the Cold War involving Britain, the US and their NATO allies turn into a shooting match with the USSR.

Some material from the 1950s through to the 1980s remains classified, but Kent is gradually giving up its secrets from the period when the world was on the edge of nuclear catastrophe.

Most recently, underground tunnels that would have been the seat of government for south-east England after a nuclear strike on the UK have been opened up for the first time since they were decommissioned in 1987.

However, the identity of the man who would have ruled what was left of the local population from deep inside the White Cliffs of Dover is still a secret.

Intelligence reports now available indicate that targets for a nuclear strike would have included Manston and West Malling airfields, Chatham's naval base and the nearby Army barracks, as well as the Port of Dover – and its secret HQ.

Such an attack would have brought into play a place codenamed Dumpy – a labyrinth of passageways, shelters, communications centres and offices constructed under Dover Castle.

It was intended to house a miniature government, headed by a top civil servant or minister, as well as departments for transport, communications and disaster relief, police officers and military staff.

The complex was never intended to be proof against a direct nuclear explosion, making it probably useless if the bomb had dropped. Instead, it was designed to offer protection from radiation and supplies for 400 people to last four weeks – before they emerged and, presumably, attempted to rebuild a shattered world.

PREPARED: Peter Lindley, abbove, took part in the trial of Dumpy just two weeks before the Cold War reached its hottest moments

According to former Kent firefighter Bob Greenfield, who lives in nearby River, Dumpy is an acronym. "We frequently went to the tunnels on familiarisation visits," he said.

"There were at least four levels of these tunnels and at some stage they were designated alphabetically: A, B, C and D. They were then given a name corresponding to the letters: Annexe, Bastion, Casemates and Dumpy, the lowest of the four. It stood for Deep Underground Military Position Yellow, which referred to its military use."

Dumpy was built under existing tunnels in the cliffs that date from the Napoleonic era and Second World War. Even when these were opened to the public, the network below was closed off, its existence known to just a few historians and Government officials.

The opening marks the last stage of the use of the cliff-top fortress as a strategic military site and came alongside the 50th anniversary of the Cuban missile crisis – the closest the Cold War ever came to becoming 'hot'.

The 13-day face-off between the US and USSR ended with the Soviets removing missiles from Fidel Castro's Cuba, in return for American concessions over similar weapons in Turkey.

"Just two weeks before this momentous event, Exercise Fallex took place at Dumpy," said English Heritage Cold War expert Rowena Willard-Wright. "This had as its premise that two nuclear weapons had hit Kent – the airfields at Manston and West Malling. So it was an effort to assess the effectiveness of the regional-government centres.

"The bunker would have been protected by soldiers with the orders to shoot at any attempt by people looking for food or protection to gain entry. The old castle walls, the moat and ditches would have provided an ideal defence for the bunker complex."

Peter Lindley joined the Royal Navy aged 18 and was sent to Dumpy during the trial.

"I didn't know why I had been sent and nor did my commanding officer when I arrived," he said. "One time an officer received a communication to say there had been a nuclear blast in the Channel. He was panicking – he didn't know if it was for real or not.

"So he sent me up top to have a look and, sure enough, there was nothing going on. I wasn't alarmed at all. The suffix 'ex' on the codename meant it was an exercise. I knew that – he didn't seem to."

Another version of what might happen was the plot of the 1965 documentary-style film The War Game. Voted 74th in the 100 Scariest TV Moments, it was shot in Tonbridge, Gravesend, Chatham and Dover and features local amateur actors with director and writer Peter Watkins at the helm. Michael Aspel was the star.

It shows Rochester being struck by an off-target missile aimed at Gatwick airport, while Manston and Dover are also hit by nukes. Immediate effects show the nearby population destroyed, with others blinded and irradiated.

Other Cold War-era sites in Kent that remain, mostly derelict, include an emergency port-control site at Sheerness, communications centres at Minster and Swingate and a base for water-pumping and distribution set up by Southern Water at Gillingham.

Ms Willard-Wright said investigation into the whole civil-defence network showed it would never have worked, "as many long suspected".

Mr Lindley had no confidence either: "I said to a friend during the missile crisis I would be anywhere rather than those tunnels in Dover."

And as an unusual footnote – when the nuclear button was at its closest to be pushed, with Soviet ships carrying missiles steaming towards Cuba and US President John F Kennedy had his war speech ready, the decision was taken not to man Dumpty. It was considered too provocative a move.

• Tours of the tunnels are being held on Thursday, January 24, and Tuesday, February 12, 2013. Details are available at www.english-heritage.org.uk.

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The venue, the food, the river... it made Maidstone seem beautiful

RESTAURANT **REVIEW**

The county town has quite an array of places to eat, meaning that even on a busy Saturday night you can walk through the main streets and be sure to find somewhere willing to give you a table... if you like chain restaurants.

For the more discerning diner, booking at an independent eatery is the only way to go. It may take a bit of forward planning, but – as I found at Bridges – it's definitely worth the effort.

My guest and I arrived early at the eye-catching venue, which distances itself from the town centre with the help of the River Medway, an asset that actually makes Maidstone look quite beautiful when admired from the table we were given by the window.

There had initially been some confusion as to our booking, but in the time it took us to order drinks at the bar we were whisked upstairs to that table with the great view and all confusion was forgiven.

The menu was a comprehensive mix of English dishes, with a good selection of meat, poultry fish and pasta, although I didn't spot many vegetarian options. However, we were both more than happy with our option.

We began the meal with two light and delicious choices – tian of prawn and crab, and

scallops and prawns St Jaques. Again some confusion occurred when our waitress brought the tian and a different starter, but this was corrected in seconds and the rest of the meal went without a hitch – a miracle given that they were catering for a party of about 30 at the same time.

Moving on to the mains, we again opted for the fish, choosing the fillet of sea bass with Mediterranean vegetables, and fillet of lemon sole with a white wine, cream and prawn sauce and selection of vegetables. Both priced at about the £17 mark, if anything these were the most value-for-money main courses we'd ever had. The portions were large but not overbearing, although I confess I did struggle to finish all three pieces of sole on my plate. It was not for the want of trying – the fish is my favourite and, cooked to perfection, this meal did not disappoint.

Having gorged ourselves on delicious food, the waitress kindly agreed to leave us to enjoy our evening for a while before bringing the dessert menu, so we were allowed more time to enjoy the twinkling lights dancing on the river before returning to eating.

My guest sensibly chose the light option of a vanilla crème brûlée, which was devoured in seconds with only a brief pause to say 'Perfect!'. I took rather longer with my cheeseboard, but with a wide selection to enjoy I was glad for the break we'd taken between courses.

We then lingered further over coffees, relaxing and full after a truly delightful meal.

Including drinks (the wine list was extensive), our bill wasn't cheap at £81.95, but for the quality of food, pleasant atmosphere, friendly service and gorgeous view I'd happily return to Bridges any time.

Erica Jones

■ **Bridges Wine Bar and Restaurant**
The Broadway, Maidstone MA16 8EB
(01622 753700, bridgesmaidstone.co.uk)

Gypsy-tart memories bag £5,000 getaway

A FOOD fan from Kent has bagged a £5,000 holiday after sending in her favourite culinary memory as a youngster.

Heather Playdon from Medway took the top prize in a Facebook competition set by cheese and bacon producers Denhay Farms to celebrate food memories.

The winner, who grew up in Chatham and Strood, wrote about her local favourite, gypsy tart, and credits her time at junior school in the area for her life-long love of the dessert.

The competition received more than 300 entries, but the judges felt Heather's memory, entitled My Big Fat Gypsy Tart, was the most evocative childhood food memory carried through to adulthood.

"'When I was at junior school in Kent, me and my classmates would love Wednesdays as it was gypsy-tart day," said Heather.

"We couldn't wait to sample some of that delicious caramelly-amazingness. At home I would beg my mum to make it and, to my surprise, one day she did. It was a complete disaster. Asking my mum if she could try again, she simply said 'Never again'.

"Fast-forward 30 years and I'm being asked to bring along an English dish for a Jubilee party. 'Now is the time,' I thought to myself.

"Too scared to attempt before and taint the lovely memories, but now I have a little daughter of my own and we love baking together, so I made the leap."

Heather won a holiday for two to Goa, including an Indian-cookery experience to create the food memory of a lifetime.

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It's all an illusion...

Derren Brown

The Orchard Theatre, Dartford
Friday, March 15 to Saturday, March 23, 2013
01322 220000
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

PSYCHOLOGICAL illusionist Derren Brown will head to Dartford for an eight-day stay next year as part of his UK tour.

Known for his daring TV shows and quest to find new answers in the human psyche, Brown is bringing his new show to The Orchard Theatre.

His recent TV series has got the public talking once again, but his hugely successful two-year run of his 2012 Olivier award-winning show Svengali, proved that the showman is up to the task on stage as well behind the camera.

He said: "Live is best for what I do – it's unpredictable and the audience knows there's no possibility of judicious editing."

Tickets are priced at £36.50.

UK rap king

Gardens gig for Kano

The Winter Gardens, Margate
Friday, February 1, 2013
01843 292795
www.margatewintergardens.co.uk

TOP UK rapper Kano has announced he will be heading to Margate's Winter Gardens in February 2013.

The artist is hard at work on his fifth studio album, collaborating with the likes of Benga, Farhot, Damon Albarn, Labrinth and Plan B for his latest project.

During the past three years Kano has worked with some of the best UK talent, including dance artists Chase & Status, Shy FX, Tanya Lacey, Clement Marfo, rapper Wiley, Chip, Gorillaz, Plan B, Tyler James and Labrinth.

On the new tour he will be supported by UK grime-music star Sway.

Tickets are priced at £17.50 and on sale now, so book early to avoid disappointment.

Spirits night in the darkness

Lee Enfield

The George Vaults, Rochester
Tuesday, January 29
www.leeenfieldentertainment.com

PARANORMAL entertainer Lee Enfield returns to the 13th-century vault beneath The George Vaults in Rochester high street for a spooky evening.

The vault is supposedly the site of several hauntings, including the spirits of a young girl, an ominous-looking figure in monk's clothing, a strange shadow blob and a small old man with a strange smile.

A previous investigation in October reported manifestations, poltergeist activity and more.

This investigation will run from 8pm-11pm and feature Victorian psychic experiments and Ouija sessions, culminating in a seance... in the pitch darkness of the vault.

Tickets cost £20. Email leeenfieldmagic@yahoo.co.uk or phone 07950 210134.

Go wild with Michaela

Star-Strach

Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells
Tuesday, April 9
01892 530613

TV PRESENTER Michaela Strachan stars in a children's show adapted from her own book of animal verse.

Suitable for children of three and above, The Really Wild Adventures takes families on a journey through an alphabet jungle of animal rhymes.

From antelopes to zebras, from orphaned orang-utans to polar-bear dentistry, this is an interactive show full of poetry, puppetry, music and lots of wildlife facts.

Strachan has been on TV for 25 years, since her early appearances in The Wide Awake Club, the long-running The Really Wild Show and more recently on Springwatch and Autumnwatch.

Tickets cost £12; visit www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.

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Sound of camp
4 Poofs & A Piano

Granville Theatre, Ramsgate
Saturday, March 16
01843 591750
www.granvilletheatre.com

THE entertaining group known fondly as 4 Poofs & A Piano captured the hearts of BBC viewers during the nine years they were the house band on The Jonathan Ross Show.

Well, now they're back on tour with a new line-up and a show entitled Bigger, Louder, Harder, Longer!

Original member Big Dave Wickenden remains at the helm and joining him is the fabulous Graeme Clark, Ian Lilley and the legendary piano-player Bobby Crush.

Camp, high-octane and naughty but fun, with original comedy songs, musical parodies, pop standards, dance, physical comedy and banter, this new line-up of the fab four should have you in stiches.

Tickets are priced at £15.

A time for the Scottish poet
Burns Night

Astor theatre, Deal
Thursday, January 24
01304 370220
www.theastor.org

HAVE your kilts and your poetry at the ready as Astor Community Theatre celebrates Burns Night on Thursday, January 24.

Try a traditional Scottish supper, relive the music and take in the poetry of the Scottish bard Robert Burns.

Be entertained by song, readings and bagpipes while eating authentic fare from the Highlands, including smoked salmon, vegetable broth, soda bread, haggis, neeps and tatties as well as the special Atholl Brose liqueur (whisky and oats) trifle.

There will be a vegetarian option, but this must be stated at the time of booking.

Tickets are priced at £22 per person and advance booking is essential.

The comedy of Parliament
Simon Hoggart

The Gulbenkian, Canterbury
Sunday, January 20
01227 769075
www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian

SIMON Hoggart's brilliant new collection of Parliamentary sketches is sure to take even the most politically-ignorant on a journey of bumbling buffoonery.

From the dying days of Tony Blair's leadership, through the shadow-filled days of Gordon Brown, and the expenses scandal with its moat-cleaning, duck houses and porn films, to the bewildering days of comedy double act Cameron and Clegg, the material is rich.

Hoggart charts the events that made the news, the *faux pas* that should have and the myriad mistakes that landed us all where we are now.

Audiences are guaranteed 90 minutes of hilarity and Hoggart will take questions and talk about his life in journalism.

Tickets are priced at £12.

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British world champions Lewis Hamilton and Jenson Button learnt their trade at the venue, which celebrates its 50th anniversary next year.

The popular kids' karting parties for ages 4-16 (either 30 minutes or an hour) are available for up to 12 drivers, and parties can incorporate a meal and be combined with laser-warfare games for ages 8-16.

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Hardman Phil is ready to take on Aladdin

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

AS he tumbled down the front steps of his Albert Square home in the winter of 2001, 22 million viewers were gripped by the question: who shot Phil Mitchell?

Steve McFadden has played the EastEnders hard man for more than 20 years and this winter the actor continues in the bad-guy role with an appearance as Abanazar in Aladdin, this year's panto at The Orchard in Dartford.

"Well, I don't think Abanazar is going to turn into the good guy any time soon. He is the evil, maniac psycho who wants to rule the world with the use of the lamp at Aladdin's expense. I guess that makes him a not very nice person.

"There are a few kicks and punches, but it's all in good humour – tongue-in-cheek nastiness. There are a couple of EastEnders references in there poking fun at me and my character, but you'll have to see it to find out why."

Londoner McFadden, 53, will also be taking the opportunity to take a look around the county during his stint at the Dartford venue.

"There will be a bit of staying down and travelling back across Christmas time because I have my kids at home. So at first I'll need to take them to school in the mornings, but once they're on their holidays I can stay locally and enjoy the Kent countryside and what there is to offer without the commute."

With a winter break from EastEnders, some may think that the actor would want a holiday or some time to get away from the schedule of being on screen four times a week.

"Nope, it's a chance to do something different. It is time off in that sense. Because it's so different to what I normally do, it's like a holiday. And nothing is more Christmassy than doing panto, so we have a good old knees-up and a good laugh on and off stage, too.

"Matt [Slack], who plays the comedy role in the show, is absolutely brilliant and he's an old friend of mine, so we've been catching up as old friends and making a few new ones."

McFadden has appeared in five previous pantos around the country, every time as the bad Captain Hook in Peter Pan, but this time things are a little different.

"Panto is a bit of a family thing, really, because I'm a director and producer and all that as well – it's all crazy. It's a bit like running away with the circus.

"This time we have a Kurdistan speciality act of tumblers who do karate and climbing and loads of different things. It kind of comes into a whole new area of acting and performance, especially with the new special effects and the 3D genie. It's got it all."

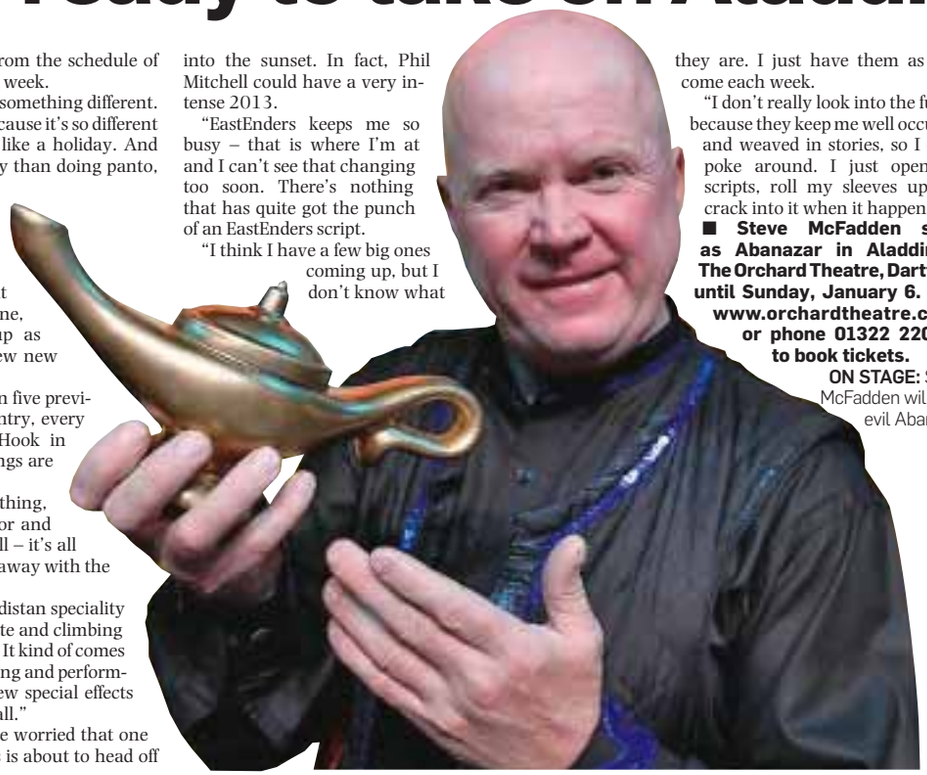
But soap fans shouldn't be worried that one of their favourite characters is about to head off into the sunset. In fact, Phil Mitchell could have a very intense 2013.

"EastEnders keeps me so busy – that is where I'm at and I can't see that changing too soon. There's nothing that has quite got the punch of an EastEnders script.

"I think I have a few big ones coming up, but I don't know what they are. I just have them as they come each week.

"I don't really look into the future because they keep me well occupied and weaved in stories, so I don't poke around. I just open the scripts, roll my sleeves up and crack into it when it happens."

■ **Steve McFadden stars as Abanazar in Aladdin at The Orchard Theatre, Dartford, until Sunday, January 6. Visit www.orchardtheatre.co.uk or phone 01322 220000 to book tickets.**



ON STAGE: Steve McFadden will play evil Abanazar

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Send : CHAT601 To : 65125 or call 0906 635 0508

(T&C's below)

5FT female, brown hair, 39, single mum, seeks caring, dedicated guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397915**

JOYCE 82, widow, seeking man who is fun loving and good humoured for meals out, 60-70's. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393067**

FOLKESTONE lady, 58, 5ft 1ins, animal lover, cuddly, affectionate, GSOH, seeks male, 58-63 to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395551**

NICKY 45, 5ft 2ins, blue eyes, blonde hair, looking for genuine male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389774**

COUNTRY loving outgoing female, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, genuine, caring, intelligent, seeks honourable, smart, professional male, 68-75 to share laughter and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392899**

MARY 61, lot to give, likes country/western, animals, gardening, dancing, seeking someone special. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399269**

RETIRED teacher, blonde, 5ft 4ins, medium build, youthful, easy-going, likes most things, seeks tall, refined gent for meaningful relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397363**

FEMALE early 60's lots to offer someone special likes dancing music divorced looking for someone could it be you? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400213**

SINGLE mum, new to Canterbury, 37, attractive, blonde, seeking soul mate, preferably with car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397751**

52YR old female, single mum of 2, seeking honest, caring, decent man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389891**

SUSIE young 55, slim, 5ft 3ins, seeks tall, honest guy from Medway towns. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389027**

BLACK African lady, late 30's, no ties, likes country walks, gardening, cinema, seaside, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393272**

DEBBIE 50, seeking man, 60 plus with GSOH for fun nights out and cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398173**

MARGARET 57, looking for male companionship with GSOH for nights out, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390248**

MARY 62, fun loving, enjoy most things, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, green eyes, size 14, lives alone in country, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385189**

45YR old female, 5ft 5ins, brown hair, cuddly, curvaceous, love animals, music, sports, seeks kind, caring, sincere, mature male, 40 plus with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381319**

PAT widowed mid 60's blonde female, loves dancing, happy-go-lucky WLTM similar aged nice male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389195**

FEMALE 21, brown eyes, loving, looking for male, 20-30 for nights in and loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396057**

INTERESTING attractive, uncomplicated, intelligent lady, many interests, seeks honourable, kind gent, 68-75 for long term companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392211**

SUE 54, fairly slim, blue eyes, brown hair, seeks male, 45-55, N/S, likes football, sports, meals out etc., looking for lasting relationship and cuddles. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392803**

WIDOW 70's, many interests, seeks gent who misses companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396401**

SUE 53, slim, blue eyes, likes football, animals, seeks N/S male, 45-55 for loving, lasting relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386247**

FEMALE likes country walks, gardening, animals, seeks male for company, meals out and nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390147**

VALERIE looking for genuine male for nights out and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387173**

FEMALE seeks Prince Charming, 20-30 to sweep her off her feet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392891**

MIRANDA early 60's, sociable, friendly, seeking similar N/S solvent, presentable, easygoing male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394843**

MICHELLE petite fun female, outgoing, enjoys holiday abroad, OHAC and pretty self-sufficient, looking for someone to share a LTR with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399515**

SENSUAL female looking to enjoy life a little more, seeking likeminded male to enjoy interesting conversations over dinner, hopefully furthering our experience. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399195**

BLACK beautiful female, 5ft 7ins, likes most things in life, seeks special male for companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398391**

SANDRA outgoing 53, carer, seeks male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390230**

48YR old female, kind, loving, caring, genuine, fun loving, loves music, singing, theatre, holidays, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387797**

FEMALE looking for male for friendship and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392365**

PICK AN ADVERT AND MAKE A DATE TODAY!

HAPPY young looking 71yr old female, likes life, fit, active, seeks male, 60 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393065**

DEBBIE 47, single parent, likes motorsport, seeking male with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398127**

LYNETTE 60, South African, new to area, N/S, sociable, like the outdoors, looking for new friends. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386387**

*18+ Only. Texts to 65125 cost £1.50/msg. min of 2 msgs. To STOP text STOP to 65125 See tcs below

LUCY kind caring, honest, fuller figured, blonde, blue eyes, 44, looking for older man, kind, caring and honest. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395805**

LORRAINE 5ft 9ins, medium build, 49, bubbly, looking for male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386401**

CLAUDIA curvy size 20, Mediterranean, blonde hair, brown eyes, seeks mature male, 40-55 for friendship, companionship and enjoy life together. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373611**

HAPPY go lucky lady, seeks tall, honest guy, 50-56 hopefully with a boat. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392529**

PAT 67, 5ft 4ins, medium build, blonde hair, widow, likes dancing, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390201**

KENTISH lady, 50, no longer wishes to make do or mend broken heart, seeks kind gent to form patchwork moments. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392865**

MARY fun loving brunette, seeking friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382689**

YOUNG looking lady, late 50's, medium build, caring, intelligent, seeks kind, caring, intelligent man with GSOH of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398095**

ANNETTE 58, 5ft 1ins, cuddly, affectionate, likes animals, seeks kind, gentleman to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394923**

LYN 59, slim, fair, looking for someone to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397347**

LOUISE loving, caring, thoughtful lady, likes photography, countryside, animals, seeks mature, N/S, genuine, caring, N/S gent with car to settle down with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397239**

BLACK female, 30, likes animals, swimming, music, singing, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395941**

MAIDSTONE lady, pretty, petite, late 50's, honest, caring, N/S, loves life and most things, seeks nice guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366501**

JULIE late 70's, petite, widowed, seeks gent with car and GSOH who loves animals. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379277**

49YR old lady, honest, sincere, easygoing, likes a laugh, looking for love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359059**

LONELY Folkestone lady, 57, 5ft 1ins, medium build, N/S, seeks caring, considerate male for walks by the sea and pubs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371067**

63YR old female, loving, tactile, seeks genuine male, 60-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381863**

HAZEL blonde, 62, pretty, cuddly, N/S, non drinker, seeks genuine, attractive male, 55-65 for fun and friendship. Ramsgate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366319**

JO bubbly, fun, red hair, green eyes, 5ft 5ins, likes nights out, DVDs, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374337**

BLACK lady, 52, likes cinema, nights in/out, seeking male, 49-55 to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390925**

SANDRA 63, likes cuddles, varied interests, WLTM male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383497**

SUSIE from Kent, seeking tall honest guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375883**

MARY likes most things, nights out, socialising, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383847**

LISA tall slim elegant black lady looking for gentleman for company, 50-90yrs. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391394**

INDEPENDENT 52yr old slim, N/S female, likes country walks, swimming, animals, meals/days out, seeks N/S similar aged male for friendship/companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366099**

TRACEY 46, 5ft 8ins, long hair, fit, slim, seeks honest, reliable, attractive, tall, slim guy for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 335375**

CARING affectionate female, 64, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, seeks male, 60-70 with GSOH for friendship/companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384871**

Men Seeking

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Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people.

Send : CHAT601 To : 65125 (T&C's below)

BUILDER 43, tall, good looking, GSOH, kind, considerate, easy going, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399935**

LONELY male, 75, 6ft, N/S, OHAC, seeks lady for friendship/companionship to share our twilight years. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393830**

51YR old male, dark hair, 6ft, N/S, good looking, likes finer things in life, seeks lady for fun times and TLC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399867**

PLEASANT single black male, slim, 41, good natured, likes most things, seeks likeminded lady for possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399825**

FUN fit, friendly 50yr old male, medium build, seeking female for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400045**

JAMIE tall slim fit 63 solvent generous retired seeks vivacious fun lady for no strings fun. Any age/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400211**

DAVID 51 medium build short hair blue eyes widowed likes nights in/out walks with dog caring thoughtful seeks honest genuine female 45-56 for friendship maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400099**

YOUNG 64yr old male, slim, GSOH, adventurous, outgoing, likes most things, seeks easy going, laidback, open-minded lady for friendship and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399539**

BRIAN 6ft 3ins, medium build, dark hair, seeking romantic, caring lady for meals out, nights in, cuddles and true love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399451**

ADRIAN young 59, likes travel, sports, seeks fun, attractive lady 40-50's. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399355**

20YR old male, looking for female, 45-50 for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393676**

RAY 41, shy, likes gardening, allotments, mopeds, seeks shy lady 41-50 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397301**

MALE 67, 14st, tall, educated, happy go lucky, seeks nice female, 50-65 for companionship. Folkestone/Deal area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398743**

DEREK 52, black male, honest, trustworthy, loyal, hardworking, likes nights out, meals out, quiet pubs, seeking similar lady for serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393886**

JACK 28, fun loving, seeking female to share the good and bad times with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393878**

DOWN to earth 49yr old male, GSOH, OHAC, happy go lucky, fit, intelligent, witty, many interests, seeks young at heart female to share life experiences with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399965**

PHIL young 63, GSOH, 6ft, medium build, easy going, seeking female, all woman for lots of love and attention. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399149**

YOUNG toy boy, GSOH, seeks mature, attractive, curvy lady, 45-55 for fun times and laughter. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398419**

74YR old widower, honest, fit, likes walks, weekends away, seeks lady for companionship. Maidstone/Medway area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398247**

THANET male, smart, young 60's, caring, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, likes travel, countryside, seeks slim, attractive, local soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398661**

ROGER 56, smoker, brown hair/eyes, average build, likes most things, seeks female for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397243**

DAN 44, fun, seeking nice female to share Sundays and lonely Winter nights with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398425**

PAUL 63, white, N/S, GSOH, varied interests, considerate, reliable, caring, seeks romantic, understanding lady, 47-67 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398971**

GHOST researcher 65, slim, dark hair, WLTM amiable, slim female companion in Canterbury/Folkestone area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398937**

SLIM retired gent, seeks female, 55-70 for friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397723**

RICHARD seeking young female for good times and fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397883**

WIDOWER 70, lonely, fed up, seeks female for nights out, meals and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397875**

MARTYN 45, average guy, likes films, theatre, meals out, GSOH, seeks similar female for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397863**

RICHARD 60, 5ft 11ins, medium build, N/S, driver, looking for female for meals out, places of interest. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393508**

BOBBY 39, Afro/Asian decent, dark hair/eyes, likes nights in/out, walks, animals, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398147**

PAUL 51, blond, blue eyes, fed up, likes walks, nights in/out seeks lady, 50-60 for friendship and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398991**

HANDSOME tall guy 40's, slim, smart, climber, skier, holidayed, happy disposition, seeks slim, petite lady for great relationship/times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397271**

PROFESSIONAL male, OHAC, independent, early 40's, likes good things in life, seeks warm, sincere female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398115**

ALAN 72, WLTM someone nice, age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393719**

MARK 49, likes running, music, cinema, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393554**

RICHARD dark hair, blue eyes, slim-medium build, 5ft 6ins, likes holidays, theatre, travel, countryside, walks, meals out, seeks female, 37-69 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398767**

Gay Seeking

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

IF YOU'RE LOOKING to connect and chat with other men look no further TXT: **GAY601** to **65125** for 3 chat matches, fun and safe service. **(T&C's below)**

Go online - www.localgay-date.co.uk

BI guy 44, looking for broadminded bi guy 45 plus for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395165**

STEVE 45, bi, CD, green eyes, seeking TV/CD for daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397621**

48YR old she male, seeks kind, caring boyfriend in Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397381**

GAY male, new to scene, seeks male, 50-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400025**

MUSCULAR male, likes wrestling, fast cars, seeks similar dominant male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399939**

Friendship

STRAIGHT male, 39, Medway, seeks pals for socialising, likes pubs, cinema, golf, table tennis, football. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398421**

JACK mature male, Thanet area, seeks friends of either sex, any age for chats. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399455**

Women TEXT FOR FUN!

*see t&c's below. No meetings implied or guaranteed. **Texts cost £1.50** per message Help Desk: **0844 445 7707**

GUYS TEXT FOR FUN. SEND KOS followed by the box number of the person you wish to chat to and send to **66888**
(T&C's below)

50Yr old Christian brunette, attractive, friendly, lonely, likes bowling, reading, cooking, outdoor life**. Text KOS 154567 to 66888**

BEAUTIFUL thing, attractive lady, n/s, beautician, enjoys fashion, antique fairs, days out & country drives. Want to know more. Text me**. Text KOS 159134 to 66888**

FUN blue eyed blonde, a little dizzy at times but a big bundle of fun. **Text KOS 163788 to 66888**

HEY guys! My interests include music, reading, tattoos, cooking, hanging out with mates and many more things. Text me! **Text KOS 168355 to 66888**

I AM an adventurous, outgoing and loyal person. I enjoy going places and trying new things I am a very active person. **Text KOS 172922 to 66888**

FUN, bubbly, happy go lucky, single, mummy, work hard, play hard, friends, family, horse, gym, wine, movies, random nights **Text KOS 218842 to 66888**

I LOVE going out and having a laugh. Im new to all this, so be patient lol. **Text KOS 182056 to 66888**

Men TEXT FOR FUN!

*see t&c's below. No meetings implied or guaranteed. **Texts cost £1.50** per message Help Desk: **0844 445 7707**

LADIES TEXT FOR FUN. SEND KOS followed by the box number of the person you wish to chat to and send to **66888**
(T&C's below)

DIVORCED Male 59, VGSOH, n/s easy-going, enjoy music, poker, cooking, watch football, having a pint in a local pub. **Text KOS 488556 to 66888**

I LOVE the arts, countryside and eating out. Honest, sensuous, with lots to share and give. **Text KOS 493123 to 66888**

I HAVE many interests but derive pleasure from everyday things,whether it be a walk in the park or a coffee by the river. **Text KOS 497690 to 66888**

ROMANTIC guy. I have many interests, but derive pleasure from everyday things, whether it be a walk in a park or coffee by the river. **Text KOS 502257 to 66888**

SPORTY gentleman. 46 yo I have a fun friendly chatty personality! Drop me a line :) **Text KOS 506824 to 66888**

Contact members by phone:
0906 515 7112

See who has left you a message:
0906 515 7114
(09065 cost £1.53p/m)

Customer Support
0844 800 1188

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(£1.50 per message sent)

Take a look at our members!

When you see a 📷 symbol, this mean the member has a photo. Text **PIC397**(space)the advertisers mailbox number, and send to 88833* to receive it straight to your mobile.
(£1.50 per pic sent)

Show us your smile!

Text your solo picture along with your 6 digit mailbox number(space)4 digit pin No. under your photo, to 0779 366 6363. Or email: support@jmediauk.co.uk with your Mailbox & pin number.

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Seaside Party Breaks

Mill Rythe Resort

Hayling Island

Self-Drive, 3 to 4 nights

From £119pp

Quote MR-KOS

Join us for a weekend party break at Mill Rythe Resort, Hayling Island. Leisure facilities at Mill Rythe include an indoor swimming pool, all weather bowls and more. Standard chalets are roomy and comfortable with colour TV, tea & coffee making facilities and en-suite bathroom - upgrades available.

INCLUDED:

- 3 or 4 nights en-suite chalet accommodation
- Breakfasts & dinners
- Entertainment

We'll Meet Again £119pp

18 January, 2013

Free Bar 6pm to midnight nightly

3-Night Half Board Break: A stunning line up of shows featuring 60s Hit Parade, Disney Songbook, ABBA Party, Spirit of Song & the Vera Lynn Story delivered by the Mill Rythe Show Cast.

World Cruise £149pp

28 January, 2013

Free Bar 6pm to midnight nightly

4-Night Half Board Break: Enjoy a 'voyage of entertainment' including World Dance Lessons - Latin, Samba & Tango, classic deck games & films such as Carry on Cruising, Titanic, Doctor on Board & episodes from the Love Boat.

Moonlight & Roses £139pp

15 February, 2013

Half Price Bar one night

3-Night Half Board Break: This weekend is perfect for a romantic break away. Enjoy champagne on arrival and wonderful entertainment plus shows from the Mill Rythe Showcast.

Carry on New Year 99p Bar Parties at Bosworth Hall Hotel

Market Bosworth, Leics

Self-Drive, 2 nights, half board PLUS 99p drinks

Was ~~£109~~pp

Now £89pp

Quote BH1/2-KOS

4, 11, 18, 25 January

8 & 22 (£99) Feb, 2013

Extend your New Year Celebrations with a fantastic value break at popular Bosworth Hall. Our Carry on New Year Party weekends have become a must-do annual event with guests returning year after year. Enjoy 99p drinks from 6pm to 11pm and entertainment nightly at Bosworth Hall Hotel, located in the village of Market Bosworth, Leicestershire. All the bedrooms are en-suite with TV, telephone, trouser press and tea & coffee tray. Leisure facilities include an indoor pool & gym (£4 per day payable at the hotel).

INCLUDED:

- 99p drinks from 6pm to 11 pm nightly - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks and mixers
- 2 nights sharing a twin/double-bedded en-suite hotel room
- 2 breakfasts & 2 dinners
- Entertainment

Isle of Wight Carry on New Year Party

For over 40s only

Warner Bembridge Coast Hotel

Self drive, 3 nights, half board PLUS Free Bar

Was ~~£239~~pp

Sale Price £229pp

Quote BX1-KOS

Friday 11 January, 2013

Join us for a party that extends the New Year festivities – for over 40s only. This year's party at Warner Bembridge was a big hit with our guests, many described it as their best party break ever! In 2013 we're back at Bembridge, our favourite Warner hotel, on the seafront on the Isle of Wight.

Our weekend break includes a gala New Year's Eve party – complete with countdown to midnight and Big Ben striking in the New Year, a Buddy Holly tribute, comedy impressionist Chris Gee and more, plus great food in the refurbished restaurant, Free drinks from 6 to 11pm every night, and car ferry worth £45 per car.

INCLUDED:

- Full entertainment programme
- Free Bar from 6pm to 11pm every night for house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- 3 nights en-suite hotel accommodation – upgrades available
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- Car ferry crossing worth £45

Swinging 60s Seaside Party

Pontins Pakefield, Suffolk Coast

Self-Drive, 3 nights, half board PLUS 99p drinks

£99pp

Quote PR3-KOS

Friday 8 March, 2013

We're taking over Pontins Pakefield for the weekend to take you on a trip down memory lane with great variety entertainment including a 60s tribute act and a host of nostalgic fun from quizzes to films.

Pontins Pakefield Holiday Village is situated on the Suffolk coast near Lowestoft.

Enjoy entertainment every night and day with Pontins famous Bluecoats and visiting cabaret acts — PLUS a choice of bars and eateries, an indoor swimming pool, snooker, pool, darts, short mat bowls, 9-hole pitch & putt, tennis court and more.

The recently refurbished chalets are all single storey and situated on level ground, in landscaped grounds just a short stroll from the main facilities and car parks.

INCLUDED:

- 99p Bar from 6pm to 9pm every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- Full entertainment programme
- 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation - upgrades available
- 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners

CONTACT US...

If you have a business story or any news you think we should be covering in this section, reporter **Nick Ames** would like to hear from you. You can phone him on **01303 817181**, or alternatively email **nick.ames@archant.co.uk**.

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Energy sector has the power to deliver jobs, claims report

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

EMPLOYMENT in the South East's energy sector grew by 25 per cent between 2008-11, according to a new report.

Powering The UK, the report from accountancy Ernst & Young carried out for Energy UK, has examined trends in investment and jobs in the energy sector. It found:

- Direct employment by the industry in the South East grew 25 per cent from 2008-11.
- Energy investment reached more than £10 billion in 2011 across the UK.
- £43 billion was invested by energy companies in the UK economy during the last four years.
- The total contribution of the energy sector to the economy, measured by contribution to GDP, reached £86bn in 2011.

In total, the sector directly employs 21,000 people across the region, with Kent having a wide range of generating plants, including nuclear and fossil-fuel stations and windfarms.

However, the future of some of the larger plants, including Dungeness and Kingsnorth, are uncertain and both are scheduled for closure – Kingsnorth next year with the loss of 123 jobs and work on decomissioning Dungeness being advanced with no news on any development of the site for a new power plant.

Romney Marsh will see some 70 jobs created for the duration of the clean-up period, but there is no long-term future in place.

The report found that jobs and investment have been increasing in the energy sector at a time when other sectors are in decline, playing an important role in regional development because the jobs are spread across many parts of the UK.

However, an analysis of investment trends raises concerns that the economic climate and policy uncertainty are slowing down decision-making and delaying new projects.

LOOKING AHEAD: Almost 21,000 people in the South East are directly employed in the energy industry, with Kent home to a range of generating plants, from fossil-fuelled stations to windfarms

The UK is still seen as attractive to investors, but greater certainty on energy policy is needed, it is claimed.

Angela Knight, chief executive of Energy UK, said: "This report shows the critical role of the energy sector in economic growth in the South East. We know this sector can play an important role in getting the region's economy back on to its feet and investing in new and cleaner energy-generators.

"There are challenges ahead and, worryingly, the investment climate is becoming more uncertain. The UK needs to move swiftly to give certainty to the industry and its investors by putting in place the right policies and the right regulations in place to ensure the investment that is needed in new power-generation and in the transmission network goes ahead.

"Now is the time for all with a stake in our energy future to work together to address the challenges ahead and reach the right decisions in the best interests of the country."

Tony Ward, head of Ernst & Young's energy team, and co-author of the report, said: "Our research shows record levels of investment in the UK's energy infrastructure at a time when investment across the economy as a whole is slowing.

"However, the transition to a low-carbon economy, and the further acceleration of investment, means more needs to be done – and we are not presently on track.

"Confidence is vital. That confidence comes through the consistent and clear articulation of the direction and objectives of UK energy policy backed up by decisions that are in line with those objectives.

"With Electricity Market Reform still to be delivered in final form, and short-term expedient seeming to drive recent statements, delivering that confidence cannot be taken for granted."

Other findings in the report noted:

- It is estimated that by the end of 2012 £30bn will have been invested since 2010 and investment could reach £25bn-£30bn in the next three years. That would bring the total companies invested over six years to almost £60bn.
- There are knock-on benefits on employment in a wide range of industries and services, such as manufacturing, engineering, finance, education and research.
- The UK is one of the most competitive energy markets, with prices well below the European average. The high level of investment needed for the shift to a low-carbon economy comes at a time of high and potentially-rising commodity prices as well as the introduction of environmental legislation. All of this is increasing pressure on energy companies.

GIFT

Decorated hampers will help to bring Christmas cheer at Demelza hospice

WORKERS at Kent Science Park have made decorated hampers for families staying at Demelza House children's hospice over the holiday period – with Santa judging the best effort.

At the start of the competition, each team was given a box, a £5 starter donation and the age range of a person for whom to make a hamper.

After that, they had to design the most exciting hamper they could and then fill it with age-appropriate gifts.

In total, 20 hampers were made for the charity. Winner was a Christmas pudding design by pharmaceutical company INO Therapeutics.

James Speck, site director at the park, said: "This is the second year we've run this competition and the response for both years has been incredible. We had more entries into the competition this year and the standard was outstanding.

"On a personal note, I'm delighted so many of our tenants got into the festive spirit to make these hampers.

"The work Demelza does is vitally important and I hope these hampers can bring some cheer to people who are going through one of the most challenging times of their lives."

Keith Lee, from Demelza, said: "We would like to extend a huge thank-you to Father Christmas and his helpers on the Kent Science Park for creating these wonderful Christmas hampers for us.

"We are always grateful to receive donations that we can use to help fund our vital services.

"I know these gifts will help to bring some cheer on Christmas morning."

SPORT

Football comes home to county town... and that's reason for retailers to cheer

THE MANAGER of Maidstone town centre has hailed the homecoming of the town's football team as a great result for the local economy.

Maidstone United FC returned to their own stadium in the county town for the first time in almost 25 years this summer, and league attendances have averaged more than 1,500.

The Stones are currently the 15th best-supported club in non-league football and these crowds have had a positive effect on local businesses.

Bill Moss, Maidstone town centre manager, said: "There is a real buzz around the town, particularly on match days. We know when the Stones are home by the huge throng kitted out in black and amber.

"The stadium's close proximity to the town centre has encouraged people to pop into pubs, restaurants and shops before or after home games.

"That has been a welcome boost to the local economy and I know a number of proprietors are grateful for that."

The completion of the £2.6 million Gallagher Stadium was cited as one of the reasons Maidstone has seen renewed interest by investors in the recently-published Kent Property Report 2012.

Bill Williams, Maidstone United chief executive, said: "Attendances have surpassed all our expectations and it is pleasing there has been a knock-on benefit to the town centre. It's a two-way relationship, with a number of businesses showing their support to us through advertising or sponsorship."

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FOR THE FUTURE: The Freight Services Agency at the Port of Dover is to be run by Motis Ireland Limited

Freight operator can drive forward prospects at port

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

MOTIS Ireland Limited is to take over the Freight Services Agency business at the Port of Dover.

Dover Harbour Board has confirmed that contracts have been signed and exchanged and the new operator says it will look to improve facilities for the parking of lorries.

Bob Goldfield, Port of Dover chief executive, said: "The deal has all been about delivering new opportunities for the business, adding value and securing its long-term future.

"This has to be good news for staff, our ferry customers, the community and, with the prospect of a lorry park, the county as a whole.

"We warmly welcome Motis Ireland Limited to Dover and are excited by their plans for the FSA, which will utilise their expertise and give Dover an edge in the marketplace. We wish them every success."

Paul King, finance director of Motis, said: "We look forward to operating and developing a thriving business, supporting the local economy and the ability of the port to provide world-class services to its customers."

Dover District Council has welcomed the announcement, saying the prosperity of the port is vital to the health of the local economy.

Its leader, Paul Watkins, said: "The port is the major employment site in Dover and must continue to prosper. Furthermore, with the shortage of appropriate lorry-parking facilities in the county, the creation of a lorry park will be of great benefit to both Dover and Kent in offering suitable provision, keeping Dover's streets clear of lorries and helping to create the right environment for attracting much-needed inward investment."

FERRIES

DFDS takes world award... yet again

CROSS-CHANNEL ferry operator DFDS Seaways has been voted the World's Leading Ferry Operator at the 2012 World Travel Awards Final Gala Ceremony for the second year in a row.

The company beat rivals from the UK, New Zealand, Ireland, Spain, Estonia and Greece to claim the trophy in New Delhi, India.

The World Travel Awards, the premier industry-awards programme, has been running since 1993 and recognises and celebrates excellence throughout the global travel, tourism and hospitality industry.

The winners are decided by votes from travel-industry professionals and consumers.

Chris Newey, international passenger director for the English Channel at DFDS Seaways, said: "We are delighted to have won this prestigious award for the second year running.

"We work hard to offer our customers the best possible service in a highly-competitive environment and it is fantastic to receive recognition for our efforts.

"With the extension of our UK service earlier this year to incorporate the Dover to Calais route, and a joint venture with LD Lines to incorporate the western Channel routes, we are determined to continue to offer customers the best possible service."

DELIGHTED: Chris Newey, of DFDS, at Dover

AWARDS

Here's to safer working!

H & K Safety Services Limited celebrated good health-and-safety practice in the construction industry at its annual awards dinner at Port Lympne.

Guest speakers Gill Monk and Kim Boggins from All Health Matters Limited and Melvyn Stancliffe from the Health and Safety Executive gave presentations on the latest health-and-safety initiatives.

Melvyn Stancliffe presented awards to local construction companies and individual managers from Civils Contracting Ltd, DCB (Kent) Ltd, DMA Mechanical & Air Conditioning Ltd, Epps Construction Ltd, HS Construction Ltd, South Eastern Carpentry, Square One Construction Ltd and W W Martin Ltd.

In addition, individual outstanding achievement awards were presented to David Johnson from DMA Maintenance Ltd, Spencer Nichol from Goody Demolition and Keith Nicholls from DMA Mechanical & Air Conditioning Ltd.

RECOGNISING DEDICATION: The team at H & K Safety Services

A spokesman from H & K said: "We are indebted to the contribution made by all of the staff at Port Lympne and to our guest speakers, but most of all to those who supported the event and worked hard throughout the year to protect the health and safety of hundreds of people while at work in a hazardous industry."

TRANSPORT

Maps to keep freight moving

SPECIALIST mapping, data and routeing expert PIE has been awarded a contract by Kent County Council to deliver a new navigation website for freight operators.

Recently debuted at Wiltshire Council, Freight Gateway provides access to freight-specific map-based road information and is designed to help local authorities meet the demanding goals of their Local Transport Plans (LTPs).

Councils can also allow residents to access the site to address any road-related queries quickly while helping alleviate concerns.

"Coupled with our work with Wiltshire Council, this new agreement with Kent represents real progress in public/private sector partnership," said Freddie Talberg, chief executive of PIE Mapping.

IN USE: Wiltshire Council is already utilising the mapping software

Freight Gateway will be integrated into the council's website and uses an interface similar to that of Google maps, adding freight-specific details such as weight restrictions, industrial estates and restricted routes.

Talberg said: "Stopping rat-runs, improving route efficiency, cutting congestion and improving road safety are just some of the issues councils are required to action as part of their LTPs.

"By ensuring hauliers have access to relevant information when planning journeys, authorities are able to tackle these issues at source, making Freight Gateway an invaluable tool."

Training, courses and careers

Changes to exam dates set to swing into force in 2013

MANY sixth form students across Kent will spend the Christmas break preparing for January AS and A level modules.

But this will be the last winter sitting.

In future, following recently announced government changes, AS and A-level exams will only be available in June.

The changes to A-levels already announced by exams regulator Ofqual are likely to be the first of many, with more due to be released in the new year.

For current students, the new cap on re-sits means they will not have January exams in their second year as expected when they started the course.

Co-principal at Rochester Independent College, Alistair Brownlow, said: "For us the changes are pretty unimportant. We have consistently advised Year 12 students against taking January exams for some time because they are rarely ready to take them after only a term of study."

He said while Ofqual seem unlikely to scrap the AS and A-level system altogether to return to the kind of two-year course with all exams at the end that parents will remember, some schools are already delivering A-levels in more flexible ways.

Mr Brownlow added: "While we welcome the removal of the January exams, we'd go further and point out there is no rule that says the AS even has to be taken at the end of the first year of study. Students inevitably perform better at the end of a two year A-level course."

Apprentice answers DIY SOS as she puts skills into practice

AN APPRENTICE got a crash course in high pressure plumbing when she joined a cast of helpers renovating a house for the BBC's hit show DIY SOS.

Lowis Marshall, 29, from Gillingham, works at a Chatham firm as an apprentice while studying at MidKent College, and tutors nominated her as an ideal candidate when the film crews recently descended on a house in Maidstone.

Presenter Nick Knowles and his team were in the county town for 10 days as they refurbished the home of a disabled former soldier who was unable to afford vital alterations to his property.

Mrs Marshall put her plumbing skills to good use to help a team of local volunteers as they transformed the house to the surprise of its owner.

The college said she was an obvious choice to appear on the TV, with a personable character and a good eye for detail when it came to doing her job.

MidKent chiefs added her attitude and approach to a real world working environment made her ideal for the job.

The mother-of-one gained her spot on the show when her employer, Prestige Solar & Heating, was asked to help on the project.

She said: "The cast and crew were fantastic and treated us like we were their best friends. They don't see themselves as TV stars and really helped keep spirits high when we were all cold and tired.

"It was a great experience for me because it was the first time I'd been in at the deep end on a building site, with everyone working under each other's armpits. But it's not put me off at all – if anything it's made me want it even more.

"I'm enjoying studying at MidKent College and am doing well and passing my exams, but there's only so much you can do in the classroom. It really helps your studies to gain on-the-job experience like I did with DIY SOS."

MidKent College offers more than 20 different apprenticeship programmes ranging from traditional subjects such as plumbing and hairdressing, to more modern varieties like IT and customer service.

Prestige Solar & Heating is one of many local firms currently working with the college to ensure its apprentices are receiving the best training possible.

Company director Nick Whatley worked with Lowis on the show and said he was delighted with the way it turned out.

He said: "This was exactly what Lowis needed to aid her knowledge of plumbing and central heating. Unless you're prepared to give someone a chance, you'll never know. I'm glad I did with Lowis because she's doing a really good job."

The episode is due to air in the spring.

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Graduates add the sparkles to Bond and Les Mis movies

IF YOU'VE seen some of this year's big blockbuster movies, then the chances are you've seen the work of two former Kent students.

Computer animation and digital visual effects master's graduates from the University of Kent showcased their world-class expertise while working on runaway James Bond hit Skyfall, and the recently released Les Miserables.

Robin Walsh and Amz Rattan, both former Kent students of the MSc in digital visual effects, contributed to one of the longest opening sequences in an action movie on Skyfall, working on special effects, including modelling, animation, texturing, motion capture, lighting, rendering and compositing, all taught during the course.

They are both now employees of leading film and visual effects company, Double Negative, and have also worked on Oscar-tipped musical adaptation, Les Miserables.

David Byers-Brown, senior lecturer in animation, said: "We are delighted to see so many former students going on to make a significant mark on the film industry, working on such huge Hollywood movies and household name franchises, such as James Bond.

"The courses are designed with a strong focus on current professional practice, helping our graduates secure jobs at some of the best film production companies in the UK and work on some of the biggest blockbusters of all time."

The two screenwriters of Skyfall, Neil Purvis and Robert Wade, are also alumni of the University of Kent.

Nurse nominated for award

IN THE RUNNING: Zoe Forsyth

A STUDENT hopes to drive away with more than a decent qualification after finding herself in the running for a top award and the chance of winning a car.

Zoe Forsyth, from Gillingham, attends the University of Greenwich and has been nominated as most deserving student in a competition organised by Motors.co.uk.

Mrs Forsyth has faced long periods combining her studies with looking after two children while her husband is on active service in the Army. He has recently returned after a third stint in Afghanistan.

Despite these challenges, she completed a full time access course with nearly all distinctions. She was then accepted by her first choice university, Greenwich, and has embarked on a three-year full time degree.

To vote for Zoe, visit http://mostdeserving.motors.co.uk/student/ and for more information on nursing at the University of Greenwich, phone 020 8331 9000 or visit www.gre.ac.uk/schools/health.

Encouraging signs that property market should see growth in new year

Nick Ames
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FINANCIAL and business analysts are looking positively in 2013 with regard to the property market.

Regional variations continue to be a factor, with the South East always seeing homes holding their value.

However, for the first time in many months things are looking up across the whole of the UK, according to professional surveys.

House prices are starting to stabilise, according to the monthly overview from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (Rics), which indicated that house prices remained broadly flat in November, but the number of sales continues to edge up.

A Rics spokesman said: "While slightly up on October's reading [by 7 per cent], this still suggests the market is now beginning to stabilise."

The improved outlook was countrywide, with a growing number of Britons showing interest in buying a new home in most parts of the UK.

Also looking ahead into the early part of 2013, surveyors are optimistic the number of sales should continue to grow gradually until the start of spring, but prices are expected to remain flat.

Peter Bolton King, global residential director at Rics, said: "There is certainly some optimism creeping back into the housing market and it is encouraging to see an increase in potential buyers across parts of the country where the market has particularly suffered in recent years."

He welcomed the announcement in George Osborne's Autumn Statement of funding to unlock large sites for house-building and said the Funding for Lending scheme was starting to bear fruit.

"However, the macro-economic picture continues to weigh heavy on the market and continues to prevent any really significant boost in activity," he said.

Other good news came from the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML), which said a steady increase in lending for house purchases signalled more activity. However, first-time buyers still required a deposit on average of 20 per cent to get on the property ladder.

This group accounted for four in 10 of all house-purchase loans in October.

In total, there were 49,500 home loans advanced for house purchases in October – an increase of 13.8 per cent compared with September, which was a slow month in the UK housing market. It was a 10.2 per cent rise compared with October 2011.

"If the incremental improvements in house-purchase lending that we are currently seeing persist as we expect them to, then next year should feel a more stable and positive year in the housing and mortgage markets," said CML director general Paul Smee.

There was a 19 per cent annual rise in loans for house purchases to first-time buyers in October, the figures show. However, the need for a 20 per cent deposit was a source of concern for some commentators.

"The huge number of aspiring homeowners will never be able to find this kind of deposit," said Neil Ryner, director of property finance group Ryner and Partners.

"What we are currently seeing are the transactions of the privileged few."

Aaron Strutt, of mortgage broker Trinity Financial, said: "Building societies have been looking to increase their lending figures this year and they regularly offer cheaper mortgages than the biggest banks.

"Over the last few weeks, they have improved their first-time-buyer rates in particular and this has helped to increase competition between lenders."

BLUES SKIES AHEAD: Experts say the property market is looking a lot brighter as we head into 2013

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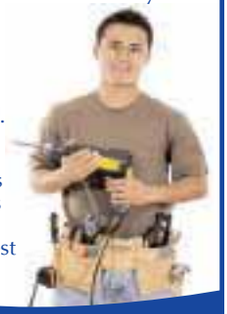

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First GEAR MOTORING NEWS

- Fiat's new Trekking Panda is bargain 4x4
- Everything black and white for Freelander 2
- Pick-up the Nissan Navara for a little less

Vauxhall's little Adam makes a big statement in market

Driving carsforkent.co.uk

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

RENAULT CLIO

Price: £10,595
Driving appeal: Not yet driven
Image: ★★★★★
Space: ★★★★★
Value: ★★★★
Running costs: ★★★★
Reliability: ★★★★
How green?: ★★★★★
Best rival: Peugeot 208

Fourth-generation Clio rides in to revitalise Renault demand

IT'S impossible to overstate the importance of the latest Renault Clio – order books are open now for this fourth-generation model, due early in 2013.

The French marque has stumbled lately, being forced to rationalise its UK line-up early this year and mistakenly putting much faith in the case for electric cars – for which the jury is still out.

The Renault-Nissan Alliance will also launch its cut-price Dacia brand here in January, to the alarm of rivals, and Renault and Nissan dealers!

But the Clio has revived Renault before and the new car looks impressive visually and technically. The styling has a lighter and sportier touch to it after its heavy-handed-looking predecessor – a sign of times when several manufacturers upsized supermini contenders to allow smaller city-car models to be slotted in.

That said, the car arrives as a five-door only, with no mention of a three-door to follow.

Renault excuses this by insisting, with justification, that the car has a coupé profile but all the practicality of a five-door, the latter point also explaining why we won't get an estate or tourer version in the UK this time around – no loss, considering the Clio image-bashing ugliness of the outgoing estate.

Like its Peugeot 208 arch-rival, a compact on-road footprint belies a roomy cabin and good-sized boot. And while the Dacia comes in soon with its Sandero to mop up demand for bargain superminis, the Clio is clearly moving upmarket with a higher-quality interior and the latest powertrain and weight-saving technology – all models are about 100 kilos lighter than the one they replace.

No slouch on the ecodiesel front, Renault will use the new Clio to up the ante on petrol power, too, where VW and Fiat have already raised the stakes. Renault's response is a new turbocharged three-cylinder 0.9-litre TCe 90 unit to attack Fiat's award-winning TwinAir engine – seen in the Fiat 500 and Panda – but there is also a new 1.5 dCi 90 diesel.

Both will offer ECO-branded variants, with the petrol capable of 65.7mpg on the combined cycle, and road-tax-free 99g/km CO_2 emissions. The diesel escapes the tax by an even higher margin with 83g/km and a class-leading 88.3mpg (combined).

The new Clio line-up is priced from £10,595 to £16,095, with new models pitched between current three- and five-door versions – the new Expression+ version, for instance, costs £230 less than a current five-door equivalent yet comes with more kit.

As with some rivals, there are also 'big car' luxury options such as a full-length panoramic roof and rear-parking camera, plus personalisation/customisation add-ons.

Renault also says the new model upholds Clio tradition as both driver-pleaser and comfortable to be in, though a Renaultsport performance flagship will not arrive until mid-2013.

DON'T LIKE

... absence of a three-door version, as some buyers like the sportier image, but Renault's decision is a sign of supermini times.

NOT SURE

... the latest Clio, good as it looks, can carry the entire burden of a Renault resurgence. The French brand needs more winners to come along.

REALLY LIKE

... styling of the car and apparently the high-quality upmarket interior. The Renaultsport sporting star should add to newcomer's appeal.

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RENAULT

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Bargain-basement Exeo shows method in marketing madness

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

SURELY I'm not alone in wondering about Seat's image?

Formerly touted as the VW group's sporty brand, it flummoxed us with a short-lived chunky Altea 4x4 MPV (2007-9) – hardly performance-orientated.

And the recent arrival of the Mii city car and Toledo family hatch-cum-saloon bargain-basement models adds to confusion.

The Spanish marque also has an executive face with a name to match – the Exeo.

But maybe this shows some latter-day method in all this marketing madness because the Exeo is a bargain-basement car, too – one that used to sell for far more as the previous-generation Audi A4.

That car was, like so many, axed ahead of its time due to the relentless march of manufacturers' model replacement cycles; another A4 was waiting in the wings, so the old car had to go.

However, instead of disappearing or being licensed to become the unrecognisable basis for the 'XYZ Luxede' – the first-ever car to be built in the former Soviet republic of Omygawdistan – the A4 and its Avant estate spin-off were taken in hand by Seat and relaunched as the Exeo saloon and ST (sport tourer) in 2009.

And it's probably remained one of the market's best-kept secrets at a time when value for money is king.

Judging by a recent facelift, the Exeo also makes as much sense now as it did three years ago, especially in the case of the ST tested here in frugal yet flexible 2.0 diesel Ecomotive form, which accounts for almost half of all Exeos sold.

Priced from £20,040, current Audi A4 equivalents would cost £6,000-£7,000 more and with less specification, though it's true to say the Audi would retain more value for longer.

The Exeo is not just a cosmetically-altered repackage of the previous A4, though; the side-profile is pure Audi, but the front end presents a proper Seat 'face' to the world, while the interior was lifted from the even more upmarket A4 Convertible of the time.

It oozes high quality and fit and finish, is beautifully arranged and devoid of the latest supposedly labour-saving yet fiddly gadgetry that irritates those who want intuitive controls.

This pragmatic approach has also been carried over to how the Exeo drives; the previous A4 could be a right fidget at times, but Seat has tweaked the chassis to improve the ride without ruining a driving experience enhanced by good steering feedback. It probably wouldn't fit Seat's erstwhile sporty marketing stance, but it's better than average for this sector.

The surprise is that even in the fuel-saving Ecomotive format of the test car, driving pleasure still comes through clearly, with the bonus that the official combined fuel consumption is an astonishing 62.8mpg, while CO_2 emissions are 119g per kilometre, meaning no road tax in year one and just £30 a year thereafter – impressive for a car of this size and power.

The 2.0-litre diesel is smooth and refined in most situations with a rapid pick-up and is mated with a slick six-speed box; as I implied earlier, there is no need to feel short-changed on pleasure to enjoy the practicality of the car's eco-friendly format.

There is also much to enjoy about the interior; true, it shares the old A4's slightly cramped rear legroom, but passenger comfort levels are high, with leather seats as standard on our mid-range SE test car.

The ST's comparatively modest boot and load space also reminds that the previous A4 was more compact than the current car and the norm in this market sector, but not everyone wants to drive a barge, especially when downsizing is the market buzzword.

SEAT EXEO ST SE TECH 2.0 TDI ECOMOTIVE: PRICE £23,715 **FACT FILE**

Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Road tax:	£30/year (£0/ year one)
Best rival:	Honda Accord Tourer

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QUALITY AS STANDARD: It's probably one of the market's best-kept secrets, at a time when value for money is king, that the Seat Exeo was actually Audi's old A4, which has now been tweaked to add even more style and quality

First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS

Fiat panders to 4x4 desire

AS EXPECTED, Fiat has again created a cut-price off-roader by adding 4x4 to its third-generation Panda city/utility car, priced from £13,950.

What was unexpected is a front-wheel-drive-only lookalike, launched at the same time – the Trekking, costing from £12,450. The 4x4 itself features chunky bumpers, skid-plate, side mouldings and wheel-arches plus dark alloys and more ground clearance.

Monochrome Freelander 2

LAND Rover has pepped up its 2013 Freelander 2 line-up by launching high-value Black & White limited editions, priced from £22,495 for the 150PS (148bhp) front-wheel-drive-only ecodiesel eD4 version – 47.1mpg (combined cycle) and 158g per km CO_2 emissions.

A 'fully-loaded' spec includes 17-inch alloys, distinctive LED running lights, Bluetooth, privacy glass, rear load cover and customised exterior trimming.

Bargain offer for a Navara

MINDFUL of new cut-price competition, Nissan has hit back with a highly competitive version of its sector-leading Navara pick-up.

With a competitive £17,995 starting price, including commercial vehicle tax concessions, the Navara Visia double cab 4x4 introduces a new, more economical version of the 2.5-litre dCi diesel with alloys and electronic stability control as standard.

MOTORING

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Adam apple of Vauxhall's city-car eye

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

WHEN a big mainstream carmaker like Vauxhall targets the small-custom-car sector, you know it's now less about what car you drive and more about the one you wear.

Car customisation and personalisation is big business, especially as conspicuous brake horsepower and performance have been shunted sideways by fuel prices and greener thinking – both key issues with younger image-conscious buyers.

BMW started it all with the Mini's limitless customisation permutations, and the Fiat 500 and Citroën DS3 are its most obvious and successful imitators, with the VW Up and its Seat and Skoda clones the best of the wannabes.

But there will be another big contender in the new year when Vauxhall launches the Adam (from £11,255) – named after Adam Opel, founder of the UK marque's German sister brand.

Odd, you might say, but not so much when you remember the car's younger target market is in the habit of giving a motor its own moniker anyway.

The Adam is Vauxhall/Opel's first venture into the city-car sector and will allow the next-generation Corsa supermini to get bigger, but it also injects a lot of razzamatazz, fashion and premium appeal into the line-up.

And that's more important than it looks because younger-target buyers for the Adam will want to scale up later due to starting families, better jobs and so on, when Vauxhall must hope to sell other cars in its range.

BITS AND PIECES: Vauxhall's all-new city car, the Adam, will be launched in the new year and allows the driver to customise parts of the bodywork, making it a big contender in this lucrative sector

Let's not forget, too, that customisation add-ons also add up to greater profitability for Vauxhall's new baby.

For starters, the Adam's distinctive looks include a 'floating roof' visual device that allows a distinct two-tone paint job – already shown to be effective on the Mini and DS3.

There's also a wide choice of alloys with colour highlight options. Check out, also, a twinkling star-studded cabin headliner that the late Sky At Night presenter Patrick Moore would have loved – until now, it was the sort of thing only sold on a limo.

Before would-be buyers start on the custom catalogue, though, there are three cleverly-named trim levels from which they can weave the small car of their dreams: Jam – cheap and cheerful for the youngest buyers; Glam – for the more discerning female; Slam – for a sportier look and probably more for the boys.

But nobody will be offered big power for now, as the Adam's engines at launch are economy-orientated petrol choices: a 69bhp 1.2-litre, or 86 or 99bhp 1.4-litre.

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MA/12/2047/N - LEDIAN FARM, UPPER STREET, LEEDS, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1RZ - Application for listed building consent for partial demolition of existing ragstone boundary wall to Upper Street to provide pedestrian access and re-building and repair where required. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/2068/S - THE ELMS, HIGH STREET, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6HU - Orangery to front/side elevation. **Reason: 2**

MA/12/2078/N - BANK YARD, MAIDSTONE ROAD, LENHAM, KENT, ME17 2QH - Erection of 1.5 storey 3 bedroom dwelling. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/2115/S - 10, LOWER FANT ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 8EA - Listed building consent for internal alterations and changes to fenestration. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/2142/N - BARN COTTAGE, BOXLEY ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 3DN - Listed Building Consent for insertion of 4 conservation roof lights to rear elevation, the handing of the front door and adjacent window, insertion of a window to front elevation, and internal alterations including removal of existing staircase and insertion of new staircase to serve first floor self-contained flat. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/2151/N - LEEDS CASTLE, ASHFORD ROAD, HOLLINGBOURNE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1PL - Change of use of land to Glamping site with installation of associated pathways, hard surfacing, fencing and lighting. **Reason: 1, 6**

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
6 - Application is Major Development.
7 - Application affects a Public Right of Way.
9 - Application does not accord with the Local Plan.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **6th January 2013,** quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 23rd December 2012

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/12/2080/N - H & M, 22, FREMLIN WALK, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1QP - Installation of a new shop front. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/2081/N - H & M, 22, FREMLIN WALK, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1QP - An application for advertisement consent for a fascia sign, two logo signs, two projecting signs and a banner sign. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/2092/N - LAND ADJ WHITE HORSE PH, THE GREEN, BEARSTED, KENT - Erection of single storey extension to existing clubhouse. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/2100/S - LAND ADJ HIGHFIELD HOUSE, MAIDSTONE ROAD, MARDEN, MAIDSTONE, KENT, TN12 9AG - Erection of 8No. new build affordable houses with associated access, parking and amenity space. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/2104/S - LAND ADJACENT TO CLAYGATE DISTRIBUTION WAREHOUSE, PATTENDEN LANE, MARDEN, KENT, TN12 9QJ - Variation of conditions 9 and 10 of planning permission MA/11/1138 (Erection of 2,716sqm warehouse building and associated landscaping works) to read:
9. The building shall not be occupied until measures of sustainable design and operation included within the Sustainability Statement dated November 2012 have been installed. The measures shall be retained in this form during the operation of the building.
10. The building shall not be occupied until details of measures to ensure that a yearly reduction in carbon emissions of at least 10,000kg/CO2 is secured via the use of on-site renewable low or zero carbon technologies. **Reason: 6**

MA/12/2106/S - LAND TO THE SOUTH OF, OLIVER ROAD, STAPLEHURST, KENT - Erection of 53 residential dwellings incorporating access, foul water pumping station, drainage infrastructure, nature conservation area, open space and landscaping. **Reason: 6, 7**

MA/12/2124/N - 42, WEST STREET, HARRIETSHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1HU - Application for listed building consent to relocate first floor bathroom, replace staircase, insertion of new windows to rear elevation and install new showeroom on ground floor. **Reason: 3**

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
6 - Application is Major Development.
7 - Application affects a Public Right of Way.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **6th January 2013**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 23rd December 2012

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

12/03130/EIAMJ Benenden Hospital Goddards Green Road, Benenden
- Hybrid Planning Application: Part Detailed - Extension and redevelopment of existing hospital complex including infill extensions and extensions to east and west sides of main building, re-organisation of hospital car parking, associated highway works and associated development including demolition of minor extensions, a sub-station and redundant buildings including 2 residential units, new lighting scheme, landscape works and works to buildings to north of site. Part Outline - Demolition and redevelopment of part of south east section of the site to provide 24 dwellings with associated car parking and landscaping and future phase extension to the western side of the main hospital building (EIA) (LB) (MAJOR) (DEVPLN)

12/03240/HOUSE Limes Cranbrook Road, Benenden
- Two-storey side and single-storey rear extensions; Alterations to front porch and annexe (CA)

12/03378/CEU Corn Hall Oast High Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Lawful Development Certificate (Existing): Use of land as residential garden (CA)

12/03421/FUL St Dunstans Church High Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Change south porch roof covering from copper to stainless steel, and insert access roof light (LB) (CA)

12/03357/FUL 121 - 123 Mount Pleasant Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden
- Alterations to shopfront (CA)

12/03278/FUL Gore Court North Road, Goudhurst
- Conversion of single dwelling into two dwellings (LB)

12/02929/FUL 42B Mount Sion Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
- Structural repairs to bathroom due to failure of existing beam, new weatherboarding and UPVC windows (CA)

12/03332/HOUSE Grove Villa South Grove, Pantiles & St Marks
- Demolish conservatory to rear and replace with orangery (CA) (LB)

12/03335/LBC Grove Villa South Grove, Pantiles & St Marks
- Listed Building Consent: Demolish conservatory to rear and replace with orangery (LB)

12/03408/LBC 25 High Street Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
- Listed building consent - projecting sign (LB)

12/03391/FUL Barclays Bank Plc 10 Calverley Road, Park
- Existing entrance doors to be brought forward in line with existing shopfront (CA)

12/03410/LBC 20 Monson Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park
- Listed Building Consent - Installation of 1 No. fascia sign and 1 No. hanging/projecting sign (LB)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

James Freeman
Head of Planning Services
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 22 December 2012

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Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
4. The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.
7. This application affects trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 07 JANUARY 2013

SW/12/1491:
New 50 x 25m outdoor ménage and landscape bund - Hooks Hole Farm, Chestnut Street, BORDEN; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/1493:
Development of five houses and floor flats with associated parking - Larkrise, Conyer Road, TEYNHAM; **REASON 4**

SW/12/1500:
New rear conservatory - 24 Cambridge Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/1505 &
SW/12/1506:
Extension to house, replacement windows, barn conversion, replacement front gates - Colleys Cottage, Badlesmere Lees, BADLESMERE; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/1530:
New aviary to rear of pigeon loft - Sandbanks Farm, Perry Wood, SELLING; **REASON 2**

SW/12/1533 &
SW/12/1538:
Construction of conservatory - Shurland Hall, High Street, EASTCHURCH; **REASONS 2 & 7**

SW/12/1549 &
SW/12/1550:
Conversion of existing dovecote and stable into gardener's annexe and refurbishment of wood store - Borden Hall, Wises Lane, BORDEN; **REASONS 1 & 2**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on 01303 817056

Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//11/00593/FUL: Tea room at Littlebourne Barn, Church Road, Littlebourne, CT3 1TA Extensions to building to form additional internal floor space. **Applicant: Littlebourne Barn Committee** Reason: Setting listed building in conservation area.
CA/12/01882/FUL: Bell Court, Chapel Lane, Marshside,Chislet, CT3 4EP Erection of garage, tackroom and store **Applicant: Miss A Godfrey** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/02133/FUL: 14 Nelson Road, Whitstable, CT5 1DP Single-storey rear extension and replacement windows, erection of replacement garage and alterations to boundary including provision of new gates. **Applicant: Mrs FitzGerald Vitelli** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/02150/FUL: Little Stour Farm, Nargate Street, Littlebourne, CT3 1QJ Proposed internal alterations, utility room extension, alter rear windows, rear dormer window and block up secondary front door access. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Ridge** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/02161/FUL: The Little Cottage, The Street, Ickham, CT3 1QT Proposed rear extension and associated alterations. **Applicant: Mrs Morrish** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//12/02162/LB: The Little Cottage, The Street, Ickham, CT3 1QT Proposed rear extension and associated alterations. **Applicant: Mrs Morrish** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/02167/CAC: Bell Court, Chapel Lane, Marshside,Chislet, CT3 4EP Demolition of existing garage **Applicant: Miss A Godfrey** Reason: Demolition of unlisted building in conservation area.
CA//12/02169/FUL: 1 Island Road, Sturry, CT2 0EA Partial change of use from A1 Retail to A5 Hot Food Takeaway and extension to existing A1 retail unit to provide new stock room and office. **Applicant: Costcutter** Reason: Conservation area.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to **development.management@canterbury.gov.uk** to arrive on or before **Monday 21 January 2013.**

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 21 December 2012

PLANNING

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC LOCAL INQUIRY
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 S53

Notice is hereby given that an Inspector will be appointed by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to determine

1) Kent County Council
(Bridleway SR332, Westerham)
Definitive Map Modification Order 2011
&
2) London Borough of Bromley
Bridleway BR 280
Definitive Map Modification Order 2011

and will attend at:

Brasted Village Hall, The High Street, Brasted, Kent TN16 1JA

On Wednesday 30 January 2013 at 10.00am

To hold a public local inquiry into the Orders

The effect of the Kent County Council (Bridleway SR332, Westerham) Definitive Map Modification Order 2011, if confirmed without modifications, will be to modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the County of Kent by upgrading to Bridleway status: -

That length of Public Footpath SR332 which commences on Pilgrims Way at NGR TQ 4495 5598 (Point A) and runs in a generally north north westerly direction for approximately 404 metres (between the Points A-B-C-D), generally north westerly for approximately 227 metres, thence generally west north westerly for approximately 174 metres (between the Points D-E). At NGR TQ 4450 5658 (Point E) there is a connection with Public Footpath SR707. The path then turns to run in a generally westerly direction for approximately 47 metres to its connection with the unaffected length of Public Footpath SR331 at NGR TQ 4446 5658 (Point F) (between Points A-B-C-D-E-F on the plan attached to the Order).

That length of Public Footpath SR331 which commences at its connection with SR332 and the unaffected length of Public Footpath SR331 at NGR TQ 4446 5658 (Point F) and runs in a generally north north westerly, thence northerly direction for approximately 106 metres to its connection with the path in the London Borough of Bromley at NGR TQ 4446 5669 (Point G) (between Points F-G on the plan attached to the Order). This length of SR331 is to be renumbered SR332.

Between the points A-B for a distance of 338 metres the path has a width of 2.8 metres.

Between the points B-C for a distance of 41 metres (Point C is 379 metres from Point A) the path has a width of 2.0 metres

Between the points C-D-E-F-G for a distance of 579 metres (Point G is 958 metres from Point A) the path has a width of 2.5 metres.

All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

2) The effect of the London Borough of Bromley Bridleway BR 280 Definitive Map Modification Order 2011, if confirmed without modifications will be to modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the London Borough of Bromley by upgrading to bridleway status that length of Public Footpath 280 which commences from Grays Road at NGR TQ 4440 5697 (Point H) and runs in a generally south south easterly direction for approximately 295 metres to its connection with the path in the area of Kent County Council at NGR TQ 4446 5669 (Point G) (between the points H-G on the plan attached to the Order).

The Bridleway has a width of 4 metres for the first 30 metres from the junction with Grays Road then has a width of 3 metres to the Borough Boundary.

1) Any person wishing to view the statements of case and other documents relating to the Kent County Council Order may do so by appointment at Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX. The documents can be viewed Monday - Friday 10am-4pm (please telephone Mrs Laura Wilkins on 01622 221517 to make an appointment).

2) Any person wishing to view the statements of case and other documents relating to the London Borough of Bromley Order may do so by appointment at London Borough of Bromley, Civic Centre, Stockwell Close, Bromley, Kent, BR1 3UH. The documents can be viewed Monday - Friday 9.30am-4.00pm (please telephone Mr Duncan Gray on 020 8313 4556 to make an appointment).

NOTE: All statements of case and proofs of evidence that are received in this office will be copied to both Order Making Authorities.

Planning Inspectorate References: FPS/W2275/7/66 & FPS/G5180/7/8

Contact point at the Planning Inspectorate: Clive Richards, Rights of Way Section, Room 3/25, Hawk Wing, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN.

Tel: 0117 372 8626
Email: clive.richards@pins.gsi.gov.uk

NOTICE OF PUBLIC LOCAL INQUIRY
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981
SECTION 53

Notice is hereby given that an Inspector will be appointed by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to determine

The Kent County Council
(Public Footpath SR737, Sundridge)
Definitive Map Modification Order 2011

and will attend at:

Sundridge Village Hall, 207 Main Road, Sundridge, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN14 6EJ

On Wednesday 23 January 2013 at 10.00am

To hold a public local inquiry into the Order

The effect of the Order, if confirmed without modifications, will be to modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by adding a Public Footpath (SR737) with a width of 1 metre which commences on New Road adjacent to Ridgewood Cottage at NGR TQ 4815 5436 (Point A on the Map attached to the Order) and runs in a generally Westerly direction for 79 metres to connect with Public Bridleway SR259 at NGR TQ 4807 5346 (Point B on the Map attached to the Order). Between Points A and B on the Map attached to the Order.

All distances are approximate, all directions general.

Any person wishing to view the statements of case and other documents relating to this Order may do so by appointment at Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Public Rights of Way, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX. The documents can be viewed Monday - Friday 10am-4pm (please telephone Mrs Laura Wilkins on 01622 221517 to make an appointment).

Planning Inspectorate Reference: FPS/W2275/7/68

Contact point at the Planning Inspectorate:
Clive Richards, Rights of Way Section, Room 3/25
Hawk Wing, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square,
Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN.
Tel: 0117 372 8626
Email: clive.richards@pins.gsi.gov.uk

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact
Kent Countryside Access Service,
on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council

Folkestone

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y12/0967/SH+ - Royal Oak Motel Ashford Road Newingreen Kent CT21 4JB - Display of internally illuminated box sign to entrance canopy on south elevation to replace existing sign.

Y12/1028/SH - Shorncliffe Lodge The Undercliff Sandgate Kent CT20 3AT - Listed building consent for demolition of existing and erection of new staircase, to include demoliton of partition wall to first floor, demolition of W.C. to 1st floor, replacement internal doors including widening of existing openings, replacement windows and french doors to 5th elevation. New rainwater goods, slates/ridge tiles and coping detail to annexe, higher railings to balcony at 2nd floor.

Y12/1092/SH+ - St Margarets Nursing Home 20 Twiss Avenue Hythe Kent CT21 5NU - Section 73 application to vary conditions 3 and 10 of planning permission Y08/0677/SH to allow alterations to the footprint and appearance of the extension and changes to parking layout and travel plan.

Y12/1053/SH - 6 Albion Villas Folkestone Kent CT20 1RP - Change of use and conversion of existing ground and lower ground floor maisonette into two self-contained flats together with the construction of a rear balcony area and other external alterations.

Y12/1121/SH - 6 Albion Villas Folkestone Kent CT20 1RP - Listed building consent for the change of use and conversion of the existing ground and lower ground floor maisonette into two self contained flats, together with the construction of a rear balcony area and other internal and external alterations.

Y12/1095/SH - Clifton Gardens Open Space Clifton Gardens Folkestone Kent - Partial crown reduction and removal of damaged and broken limbs of a Holm Oak situated within a conservation area.

Y12/1073/SH# - Elm Grove 2 High Street Lydd Romney Marsh Kent - Reduction of branches on western and southern sides of three Sycamore trees subject of Tree Preservation Order No. 1 of 1974.

Y12/1129/SH - Barnstormers Stone Street Stanford Ashford Kent - Continued use of agricultural land as residential curtilage.

Y12/1097/SH - Building adjoining Grace Chapel Grace Hill Folkestone Kent - Extension of time limit (planning application Y09/0702/SH) erection of a 5 storey block with basement level comprising of 14 flats with 1.1 m high perimeter fencing to Foord Road South frontage and associated works.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

\# - The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

\+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

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MARRIAGE LICENCES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Swan Chapel Down, Smallhythe Road, Tenterden**

Applicant: **Mr Pete Cornwell**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this notice. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Cath Anley
Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
Kent History and Library Centre
James Whatman Way
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **The Woodville, Woodville Place, Gravesend**

Applicant: **Sue Reuter**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Cath Anley
Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
Kent History and Library Centre
James Whatman Way
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made by Mrs Gosling of Bradstow Court, Rumsfield Road, Broadstairs to Kent County Council, to grant an approval for a ceremony at this premise.

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper.

Objections should be sent to the following address

Cath Anley, Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
Kent History and Library Centre, James Whatman Way
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ

PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES

LICENSING ACT 2003: Application for Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that Rumbar Limited of Alberrys Wine Bar, 38 St. Margaret's Street, Canterbury has applied to Canterbury City Council for the GRANT of a Premises Licence as follows: For the provision of: live music from 12:00 to 01:00hrs Monday to Saturday and from 12:00 to 22:30 hrs on Sunday; recorded music and sale of alcohol from 10:00 to 02:00hrs Monday to Wednesday, 10:00 to 03:00hrs Thursday to Saturday and from 10:00 to 24:00hrs on Sunday; performances of dance from 12:00 to 02:00hrs Monday to Wednesday, 12:00 to 03:00hrs Thursday to Saturday and 12:00 to 24:00hrs on Sunday; late night refreshment from 23:00 to 02:30hrs Monday to Wednesday, 23:00 to 03:30hrs Thursday to Saturday and 23:00 to 00:30hrs on Sunday. Premises to be open from 10:00 to 02:30hrs Monday to Wednesday, 10:00 to 03:30hrs Thursday to Saturday and 12:00 to 00:30hrs on Sunday; On New Year's Eve all activities to continue from the end of Permitted Hours until the beginning of Permitted Hours on New Year's Day. The above for the premises 'Alberrys Wine Bar' situated at 38 St. Margaret's Street, Canterbury. A register of licensing applications can be inspected at www.canterbury.gov.uk/licensing or at Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1YW tel. 01227 862000 by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday. Any person wishing to submit representations to our application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by 11/01/2013. The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Panel and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm.

To advertise in this section
01303 817056

To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on
01303 817056

HIGHWAYS

Highways - Ashford Area

CHURCH LANE, ALDINGTON (30 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the public and workforce during construction works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to impose a temporary mandatory speed limit of 30 mph on Church Lane, Aldington, in the vicinity of Sellindge Converter Station.

This takes effect on or after 7 January 2013 for up to 18 months or until the works have been completed.

The section of road affected is from a point 100 metres north of the M20 overbridge southwards to a point 150 metres south of the railway bridge.

The speed limit will be clearly indicated by traffic signs when in operation during the works period.

PLUMPTON AND GOODCHEAP LANE, HINXHILL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of ongoing works to install a new electricity supply cable, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Plumpton and Goodcheap Lane, Hinxhill, on or after 7 January 2013 as shown below.

PLUMPTON, HINXHILL will be closed from 7 January 2013 for up to 2 weeks.

The closure is between the junctions with Hinxhill Road and Bockham Lane

The alternative route is via Hinxhill Road, Spelders Hill, The Street, Amage Road, Brabourne Road and Hampton Lane.

GOODCHEAP LANE, HINXHILL will be closed from 14 January 2013 for up to 2 weeks.

A further 2-week closure will also be necessary within the following 2 months, to be notified, advised locally and signposted on site.

The road will be closed for its entire length.

The alternative route is via Blackwall Road, Blackwall, Naccolt Road and Hinxhill Road.

Highways - Canterbury Area

STATION ROAD, WHITSTABLE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of sewer repair works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Station Road, Whitstable, on or after 7 January 2013 for up to 4 weeks, or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Westgate Terrace and The Sidings.

The alternative routes are:

Southbound via Westgate Terrace, Westmeads Road and Diamond Road

Northbound via Diamond Road, Reservoir Road and Westgate Terrace

Borough of Dartford and District of Sevenoaks

VARIOUS ROADS, DARTFORD, DARENTH AND SOUTH DARENTH (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Various Roads in Dartford, Darenth and South Darenth as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 20th January 2013 and 19/01/2014, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the event is planned to last 1 day between 09.00hrs - 12.00hrs. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: as noted in schedule 1.

Schedule 1

Road name:	Darenth Road, Dartford
Extent:	Southbound from David Lloyds Entrance
Diversion:	No diversion required closure will be in place for 10 minutes
Road name:	Powdermill Lane, Dartford
Extent:	Between its junctions with Darenth Road and Warwick Way
Diversion:	No diversion required closure will be in place for 10 minutes
Road name:	Warwick Way, Dartford
Extent:	Between its junctions with Powdermill Lane and Hawley Road
Diversion:	No diversion required closure will be in place for 10 minutes
Road name:	A225 Hawley Road, Darenth
Extent:	Between its junctions with Warwick Way and Parsonage Lane
Diversion:	No diversion required closure will be in place for 15 minutes
Road name:	Parsonage Lane, Hawley/Darenth
Extent:	Between its junctions with Hawley Road and Roman Villa Road.
Diversion:	Signed Diversion route from Parsonage Lane roundabout to Darenth Hill roundabout (and vice versa) via Hawley Road, Princes Road and Green St Green Rd and the reverse Road will be closed from 9.40 till 9.55
Road name:	Darenth Hill, Darenth
Extent:	Between its junctions Green Street Green Road.
Diversion:	B260 Green Street Green Road, A225 Princes Road, A225 Hawley Road, A225 Main Road and Devon Road Road will be closed from 9.40 till 9.55
Road name:	Roman Villa Road, Darenth
Extent:	Between its junctions with Darenth Hill and Holmesdale Hill
Diversion:	A225 Hawley Road and A225 Princes Road
Road name:	Rabbits Road, South Darenth
Extent:	Between its junctions with Shrubbery Road and Canada Farm Road
Diversion:	Shrubbery Road, Holmesdale Hill, St Margarets Road and B260 Green Street Green Road
Road name:	Gills Road, South Darenth
Extent:	Between its junctions with Holmesdale Hill and B260 Green Street Green Road
Diversion:	B260 Green Street Green Road, A225 Princes Road, A225 Hawley Road, A225 Main Road and Devon Road
Road name:	Wilson Lane, South Darenth
Extent:	Between its junctions with Gills Road and Rabbits Road
Diversion:	B260 Green Street Green Road, A225 Princes Road, A225 Hawley Road, A225 Main Road and Devon Road
Road name:	Canada Farm Road, South Darenth
Extent:	Between its junctions with Three Gates Road and B260 Green Street Green Road
Diversion:	Valley Road, Fawkham Road and B260 Green Street Green Road
Road name:	St Margarets Road, Darenth ONE WAY from Homesdale Hill
Extent:	To B260 Green Street Green Road
Diversion:	B260 Green Street Green Road, A225 Princes Road, A225 Hawley Road, A225 Main Road and Devon Road
Road name:	St Margarets Road, Darenth
Extent:	closed at its junction with B260 Green Street Green Road
Diversion:	No diversion required closure will be in place for 10 minutes
Road name:	Trolling Down Hill B260
Extent:	Between its junctions with B260 Green Street Green Road
Diversion:	via Princes Road, Lowfield Street, A225 Hawley Road, Parsonage Lane and Darenth Hill B260 Green Street Green Road. Between 10.10 and 11.30

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate the event, Les Witton Dartford 10KM

Highways - Dover Area

DURBAN CRESCENT, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Durban Crescent, Dover, on or after 7 January 2013 for up to 6 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in 2 phases, as shown below.

The initial phase is the closure in the vicinity of the southern junction with Melbourne Avenue, from 7 January 2013 for up to 3 weeks.

The second phase is the closure in the vicinity of the northern junction with Melbourne Avenue, from 28 January 2013 for up to 3 weeks.

The dates of the phases are approximate guidelines which may vary subject to weather and ground conditions. The exact dates will be notified to local residents and signposted on site.

Access remains from the opposite end of Durban Crescent, or via Melbourne Avenue and Natal Road.

SANDWICH LEVEL CROSSING, SANDWICH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of level crossing maintenance, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Sandwich Level Crossing, Sandwich, from 12 January 2013, as shown below.

New Street, Sandwich will be closed in the vicinity of the level crossing.

The alternative route is via New Street, Harnet Street, Strand Street (plus High Street, The Chain and Galliard Street in reverse), Ash Road, A256 Sandwich Bypass, A258 Deal Road and New Street.

The planned closure times are from Saturday 12 January 2013 at 00:35 hrs until Sunday 13 January 2013 at 04:50 hrs.

Highways - Maidstone Area

BACK STREET, LEEDS, MAIDSTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of cabling works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Back Street, Leeds, Maidstone, on or after 7 January 2013 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Forge Lane to Avery Lane.

The alternative route is via Horseshoes Lane, B2163 Upper Street/Lower Street, Forge Lane.

(VARIOUS ROADS, BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS) VARIATION NO.14 ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL hereby makes the above named Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984:

The effect of the proposed named Order (Waiting Restrictions and Street Parking Places) will introduce new or to amend existing waiting restrictions in the following lengths of road (in this part of the notice DYL means waiting to be prohibited at all times by double yellow lines; SYL and loading restrictions means no waiting at the times prescribed below).

Maidstone:

Bower Lane; DYL, western side, from its junction with Tonbridge Road to its junction with Upper Fant Road in a southerly direction.

Bower Lane;

Eastern side - DYL, from its junction with Tonbridge Road in a southerly direction for a distance of 35 metres.

Eastern side - DYL, from a point 8 metres north of its junction with Evelyn Road to a point 10 metres south of that junction.

Eastern side - DYL, from a point 27 metres south of its junction with Evelyn Road for a distance of 5 metres in a southerly direction.

Eastern side - DYL, from a point 19 metres north of its junction with Newton Close to a point 20 metres south of that junction.

Eastern side - DYL, from its junction with Bower Place in a northerly direction for a distance of 8 metres.

Downs View Road; DYL, both sides, those lengths which extend from its junction with Sandling Lane for a distance of 24 metres in a north-easterly direction.

Hillary Road; DYL, eastern side - that length which extends from the entrance of St Paul's Infant School to a point adjacent to the common boundary of Houses No.109 and 111 Hillary Road in a north easterly direction.

Sandling Lane; DYL, northern side, that length that extends from a point 10 metres east of its junction with Downs View Road to a point 10 metres west of that junction.

Bearsted:

The Orchard; DYL, both sides, those lengths which extend from its junction with Yeoman Lane in a generally south-easterly direction to a point in line with the north eastern flank wall of House No.9 The Orchard INCLUDING ITS SOUTH EASTERN SPUR.

The Orchard; SYL, Monday - Friday 14:00am to 14:30pm, both sides, those lengths which extend from a point in line with the north eastern flank wall of House No.9 The Orchard to its termination, INCLUDING ITS NORTH EASTERN SPUR.

A copy of the Order which comes into operation 31st December 2012, a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order, a map indicating the location and the effect and a copy of any other Orders which will be amended by the Order may be examined on Mondays to Friday at the offices of The Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone and the Maidstone Borough Council offices, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent, during normal opening times

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose

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WEAVERING STREET, MAIDSTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to access BT underground structures, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Weavering Street, Maidstone, on or after 10 January 2013 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Vinters Way to Grovewood Drive.

The alternative route is via Weavering Street, Grovewood Drive, New Cut Road, Grovewood Drive.

Highways - Swale Area

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (MINSTER ROAD, MINSTER ON SEA) (ZEBRA CROSSING) ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers under section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, intends to install a zebra crossing outside 132 Minster Road, Minster on Sea. A plan showing the location of the proposed zebra crossing may be inspected during normal working hours Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD or at www.kent.gov.uk/khsconsult

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Zebra Crossing you should send the grounds, in writing to Mr Steve Darling, Kent County Council, Highways & Transportation, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent TN24 8AD or email traffic.schemes@kent.gov.uk by noon on 14 January 2013.

Highways - Thanet Area

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (DANE COURT ROAD, BROADSTAIRS) (CYCLE PATH) NOTICE 2012

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers under sections 65 and 66 of the Highways Act 1980, intends to install a section of new cycle path; and widen and convert existing sections of footway to a shared use cycleway / footway; in Dane Court Road, Broadstairs. A plan showing the proposed new cycle path facility may be inspected during normal working hours Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD. It may also be viewed online at: www.kent.gov.uk/khsconsult

To comment on the proposals please contact Mr Steve Darling, Kent County Council, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD; or via email to traffic.schemes@kent.gov.uk ; by noon on Monday 14 January 2013.

MARKET STREET & KING STREET, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Market Street & King Street, Margate, on or after 7 January 2013 for up to 12 weeks, as shown below.

MARKET STREET will be closed from 7 January 2013 for up to 5 weeks.

The closure is from the junction with the High Street to the entrance to the car park.

The alternative route is via High Street, Queen Street, Cecil Square, Hawley Street, New Street and New Cross Street.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Market Street will be suspended from New Cross Street to the point of closure, to allow access.

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

HIGHWAYS

KING STREET will be closed from 11 February 2013 for up to 6 weeks.

The closure will be in phases between the junctions with Hawley Street and Broad Street.

The alternative route is via Trinity Hill, Trinity Square, Fort Crescent, Fort Hill and Fort Road.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of King Street, between the junctions with Hawley Street and Broad Street, will be suspended to allow access.

The start date of the second phase is an approximate guideline which may vary subject to weather and ground conditions. The exact date will be notified to local residents and signposted on site.

Highways -Tunbridge Wells Area

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(LOWER GREEN ROAD AT PEMBURY)
(ZEBRA CROSSING)
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers under section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, intends to install a zebra crossing at the location described in the schedule below.

A plan showing the location of the proposed zebra crossing may be inspected during normal working hours Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX or Kent County Council Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Zebra Crossing you should send the grounds, in writing to Miss Laura Squires, Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or email MHF@kent.gov.uk by noon on 20th January 2013.

SCHEDULE

Type of Pedestrian Crossing	Location
Zebra	Lower Green Road, Pembury at a point 20 metres north of the junction with The Forstal

B2086 SWATTENDEN LANE, CRANBROOK
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to install a new water main , Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on B2086 Swattenden Lane, Cranbrook, on or after 7 January 2013 for up to 19 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from "Little Charity" to "Swattenden Oast".

The alternative route is via B2086 Benenden Road/Cranbrook Road/Mounts Hill, New Pond Road, Mill Street, Sponden Lane, A268 Megrims Hill/Rye Road, A229 Cranbrook Road/Hawkhurst Road/Hartley Road.

John Burr
Director of Highways & Transportation
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ **Dated 23rd December 2012**

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

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ARCHANT KOS MEDIA

FOOTBALL

Fuller set for an emotional return to Priestfield with Davids and Co

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

BARRY Fuller's career looked to be on the rocks in the summer. Having returned from a career-threatening knee injury that had sidelined him for 11 months, he was cut loose on his return to fitness as Martin Allen took over in July.

Having taken that disappointment on the chin, he's back in business with Barnet and is looking forward to returning to his old stomping ground on Boxing Day – a fixture that's been on his mind for a while.

"I would be lying if I said I hadn't thought about it," he said. "It's one of those games that, whoever you are, you look for, because it's a big game in this league at a nice ground. I'll look forward to walking out and seeing what sort of reception I get.

"I spent four-and-half-years there, really happy years. I had probably the best moments of my career there.

"We're going there bottom of the table, and them top. We could say we have nothing to lose. I would like Gillingham to do well – apart from Boxing Day. It will be an emotional time. After being out for 11 months, it's nice to be playing games again."

The 28-year-old won't be the only familiar face in the Barnet squad for Gills fans. Curtis Weston, who made 167 appearances in four years at the club, was also released in the summer and signed at Barnet shortly after.

Olly Lee is another. He made seven appearances on loan from West Ham last season and was also snapped up by Barnet joint head coach Mark Robson – himself a former Gills coach during Mark Stimson's reign.

Fuller admitted it was difficult being released from the club he captained and for which he made 151 appearances – a CV that includes lifting the League Two play-off final at Wembley in 2009.

"When Hessy [former manager Andy Hessenthaler] left, not just me, but I think all the players, wondered if a new manager was going to want them," he said. "I was out of contract and hadn't played for 11 months. It's part and parcel of football. Martin [Allen] made that decision to not offer me a deal, and I was man enough to take it on the chin. Whether you've been in the game one or 10 years, it's never easy to take, but you learn how to deal with it."

MEMORIES: Barry Fuller captained Gillingham in the League Two play-off final win over Shrewsbury at Wembley in 2009. He was released in the summer and signed for Barnet.

Having had so long out through injury, Fuller wanted to limit his expectations for this season and set himself a target of 20 games – which he's already exceeded.

"I'm not the type of person that lies down and quits," he said. "I wanted to keep going until physically I couldn't go any more. Thankfully, it never came to that point."

One man who will either be on the pitch or strolling up and down the technical area is Edgar Davids. The Dutch legend joined Barnet in October as player-joint head coach, adding the Bees to his CV, which includes Tottenham, Ajax, Internazionale, Barcelona, Juventus and AC Milan. He also has a large honours list boasting six domestic titles, nine domestic cups, the Uefa Cup and the Champions League.

Fuller feels he has had a positive impact, after initially wondering whether he'd join at all.

"As players we had heard the story a few months before it came out in the Press," he said. "It was spoken about, it was one that dragged on a bit. We thought maybe something wasn't right for him or the club, so we thought it was gone.

"I played a pre-season friendly with Stevenage against Tottenham a few years ago against him. I showed him a picture of the two of us together from that game. He remembered Stevenage, but he didn't remember me."

Plenty of Bees and Gills links

THERE is a long list of links between Gillingham and their Boxing Day opponents Barnet.

Barnet's joint head coach Mark Robson spent two years at Priestfield from 2008. He was part of Mark Stimson's coaching set-up before he, along with Stimson and the rest of the staff, were sacked after the 2010 relegation to League Two.

He then rejoined a few days later – this time as assistant manager to new boss Andy Hessenthaler. But it lasted just three weeks as he resigned for personal reasons.

Barnet was Hessenthaler's last professional club before moving into management at Dover.

He signed for the north London side in January 2006 and made 40 appearances from then until the end of the following season, when his contract expired.

Martin Allen also had three spells at the club; his third was just for three games at the end of last season as he kept them in the Football League.

COACH: Ex-Gill Mark Robson

RUGBY AND CRICKET

County-town teams eye brighter financial future as they get together to form partnership at The Mote

MAIDSTONE'S top cricket and rugby clubs are uniting to form a federation that will run the 25-acre sports ground at The Mote.

Maidstone Rugby and The Mote Cricket Club have set up the new Mote Sports Federation (MSF) to manage and fund the site while still running as independent clubs.

The partnership means they will share site costs and income and work together to improve the ground and facilities, hopefully increasing its profitability.

The MSF will be run by a committee that has three appointed members from each club. This will be under the guidance of a chairman, Glen Aukett, who is chairman of the cricket club.

A group of sub-committees will be formed to look after specific areas of The Mote, including the ground, pavilion and finances.

If the pilot first year is successful, the clubs are planning to run the federation as a limited company.

The site is held by a trust formed in 1929 by then-owner Lord Bearsted. The cricket club plays on the ground by right and rugby has a 50-year lease, which the clubs have agreed to renew. Discussions to provide improved facilities, including a new pavilion and a possible 3G pitch, have already begun.

Rugby chairman Andy Golding said: "We shall both use our strengths and talents to improve this wonderful ground for the benefit of our clubs and people of Maidstone."

Cricket chairman Aukett said: "Both clubs will be stronger working together and I am confident we can now achieve so much more working in close partnership."

Maidstone are the only unbeaten rugby club in the county as they sit top of London 3 South East Division.

After this weekend's clash against Folkestone they are on a break until Saturday, January 5, when they play the same opposition again.

TEAM: The Mote Cricket Club and Maidstone Rugby Club have joined forces for a year trial

CRICKET

Venue chosen for Kent's CB40 clash in Holland

KENT fans wanting to book a weekend on the Continent to watch James Tredwell's side in action can now book up.

Kent's CB40 fixture against fellow Group B team Holland will take place at Salland Cricket Club in Deventer, which is just an hour's drive from Amsterdam.

The fixture is Holland's first match of the season in the competition and takes place on Friday, May 10, and is set to start at 1.45pm.

Kent are in action during the week in the CB40, with fixtures against Warwickshire at Edgbaston on Monday and Nottinghamshire on Wednesday under lights at Trent Bridge.

The reverse fixture against Holland is the opener for next season's Tunbridge Wells Cricket Festival at The Nevill which starts on Monday, May 27.

The other two games in the festival are Leicestershire in the LV=County Championship and Northamptonshire in the CB40.

FOOTBALL

Dartford captain is staying calm ahead of derby clash

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

Picture: ADY KERRY

CAPTAIN: Elliot Bradbrook, centre, will be leading by example against Ebbsfleet United on Boxing Day. It will be their first meeting in a competitive fixutre since 2010 in the Blue Square South.

DARTS captain Elliot Bradbrook insists nothing will change for his side against rivals Ebbsfleet United in their Boxing Day derby.

The two sides meet for the first time in two years at Stonebridge Road on Wednesday in a much-anticipated match for fans.

But while skipper Bradbrook knows the importance that supporters place on the fixture, it is business as usual for him and his team-mates as they look to get back to winning ways, having seen a dip in their blistering form in the last month.

They've won just once in their last four outings before this weekend – that came in the 3-0 FA Trophy win over Tonbridge Angels.

"We know the supporters make a lot of it," he said. "Even though it's a derby, I don't think it changes too much. From a player's point of view, it's different to a fan's point of view.

"I remember two years ago there was a big thing about it because we hadn't played each other for a long time. There was a lot of hype."

For the first time in a long while the tables have turned, as Dartford have finally got themselves back on an even footing, having gone through a rebuilding process following their finnacial demise in the early 90s.

The previous two meetings were in Blue Square South in the 2010/11 season, when Liam Daish's Fleet won promotion via the play-offs.

The first clash on August Bank Holiday Monday at Princes Park ended in a 1-1 draw with goals from two men who have since departed – Charlie Sheringham and Michael West.

The bragging rights went to Daish's men in the second tie at Stonebridge Road, on December 28, when his side claimed a 2-1 win, with Derek Duncan and Callum Willock scoring either side of a Bradbrook strike in the first half.

But this season Tony Burman's Datford have been the team setting the pace as far as Kent's non-league sides are concerned while Ebbsfleet have struggled at the wrong end of the table.

Bradbrook isn't placing any importance on league position or form for the match, which is just their third league encounter since 1992.

"None of the games we have played have been easy," he said. "League position doesn't really come into it. They have got a lot more experience than us in this division."

Dartford are currently in the lead in the head-to-head stats, having won 114 of their 281 meetings in all competitions. Fleet were victorious on 108 occasions and there were 59 draws.

HOCKEY

GB star Jackson hits jackpot during Indian league auction

WEST Malling hockey star Ashley Jackson became one of the most sought-after players in the world this week when he was sold at auction for the Indian Hockey League.

The 24-year-old was one of 240 players in the auction set up for clubs to buy the best players for the next season of the league.

The Great Britain Olympic star fetched one of the highest prices, the $73,000 (£44,900) eclipsing his reserve of $25,000.

The East Grinstead player, who won the world young player of the year award in 2009, was in action at the Maxifuel Super Sixes Championships when the auction was taking place.

However, there was a small pause in their day to take in the big news.

"I'm very happy with the outcome. I couldn't watch it live as I was in a team meeting with East Grinstead, but Matt Jones was mouthing the price silently and when it hit $40,000 we had to stop the meeting and pay a bit more attention," said Jackson.

His $73,000 price-tag makes him the second-highest earner in his team the Ranchi Rhinos. Only the newly-crowned FIH World Player of the Year Moritz Fürste made more as he went for $83,950.

Picture: ADY KERRY

COST: Ranchi Rhinos paid £44,900

The most expensive player from the five teams is Dutchman Teun De Nooijer, who sold for $87,400.

Jackson said: "I'm delighted to be playing for the Ranchi Rhinos under Gregg Clark and also excited to play alongside a decorated Mo Fürste."

The tournament takes place from Wednesday, January 16, until Sunday, February 10.

ICE HOCKEY

Avery released as Mos coach looks to improve

INVICTA Dynamos head coach Kevin Parrish has released Tom Avery from his contract at the club.

Parrish has made no secret of his desire to make changes in recent weeks as in his eyes the Dynamos have underperformed in the first part of the season, while he is also looking to find a committed and settled side on the ice at the Silverblades stadium.

Avery, 22, joined the Gillingham-based club in the summer and made 21 appearances. The defenceman managed six points in the process, including five assists to accompany a well-taken goal against Peterborough Islanders in November.

He started his career in Bracknell and went on to secure play-off honours with Chelmsford Chieftains in the 2011/12 season, when he caught Parrish's eye.

Parrish admitted a change needed to be made if they were to up their game for the rest of the season.

"The 2012/13 season has not started as well as we would like and a few alterations are needed to make us competitive for the remainder of the campaign," he said.

Picture: DAVE TREVALLION

GONE: Tom Avery has been let go

"Tom has found his ice time limited in recent weeks, so I have made the decision to release him from his contract. Naturally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish him all the very best for the future."

OLYMPICS AND PARALYMPICS

CASH: Athletics will receive £26.8 million funding

Rio hopefuls get cash boost as others see funding withdrawn

KENT'S elite athletes have received mixed news about their funding for the Rio Games.

UK Sport this week announced how it was going to spend £347 million on Olympic and Paralympic sports for the next four years while also withdrawing the funding for sports that didn't achieve at the London Games.

In total, 42 sports with 'credible' medal potential will be backed for Rio. The funding is an 11 per cent increase from what those going to the London Games had as UK Sport sets its sights on bettering the 65 Olympic and 120 Paralympic medals won in the summer.

While some have benefited from the news, with Paralympic funding increased by 43 per cent to £70m, others haven't as their funding has been cut completely.

After winning just one game in London, the ParalympicGB sitting volleyball team has seen its funding axed. It affects Ashford's Claire Harvey, who captained the women's sitting volleyball team, and Netra Rana, from Folkestone, and Beckenham's Richard Dobell, who were on the men's team.

Paralympic table tennis has been given a boost with its funding increased from £1.64m to £2.7m following the success of Tunbridge Wells ace Will Bayley, who won silver in the singles, as well as bronze with Sheppey's Ross Wilson in the team event.

Although the wheelchair rugby team, captained by Sittingbourne's Steve Brown, missed out on a medal, their funding has been increased from £2.2m to £3m.

Cash for Olympic athletes has increased to £276.4m from £264m.

It's good news for Chatham trampoline star Kat Driscoll as gymnastics has had a rise from £4m to £14.5m. Kent's athletics stars like New Romney's Lisa Dobriskey, Dartford's Adam Gemili and Hythe's Jack Green will be backed by £26.8m, which is up by £1.6m.

Hockey will receive £15.5m – £500,000 more than for the London Games, which could support Canterbury's host of international stars.

Investment in rowing has risen by £5m to £32.6m following another successful Games in which Ashford's Tom Ransley won bronze in the men's eights.

Sports to miss out include basketball, handball, wrestling and, disappointingly for West Wickham's Sean King, waterpolo.

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Terms and conditions apply. SLM reserves the right to withdraw this offer at any time. Retail customers only.

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